

WELCOME TO

# CONCORDIA

# NEWS

SEEKING ASYLUM: THE LIFE OF AHMADI MUSLIMS IN CANADA

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## 'Peanuts'

### Concordia TAs Remain Among Lowest Paid in Canada



TRAC president Thomas Leonard says Concordia TAs "might as well work at a bar" if better wages aren't secured. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

• MADELINE COLEMAN

The union of Teaching and Research Assistants at Concordia ratified its first collective agreement with the university on Aug. 31, guaranteeing base salaries for Concordia TAs and RAs and solidifying the job descriptions of all three levels of TAs.

It's a step up for TAs and RAs, who have been without a collective agreement since TRAC formed four years ago. Sixty-eight per cent of TAs present at the special general assembly and 100 per cent of RAs voted to ratify the agreement, which will take effect this fall.

But some argue not much has changed.

According to graduate student and TA Rushdia Mehreen, TRAC did "zero mobilization" before the general assembly. By her count, only 15 to 20 people showed up to vote.

"This sounds to me like a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Mehreen, who is pursuing a master's degree in urban planning. "[TRAC] basically said, 'There's nobody around

so we won't mobilize.' It's a ratification, a collective agreement that you're signing for three years—do some damn mobilization!"

This agreement is a revised version of the proposal students rejected in January, one which would have actually decreased the wages of many TAs. The previous TRAC executive accepted and signed it, but union members roundly rejected it at a general assembly.

The new executive took office shortly after pushing for an election in February. Current TRAC president Thomas Leonard said he was motivated to join the organization, a local of the Public Services Alliance of Canada, by his anger about the "wretched" last agreement.

"I thought way too many people were losing money," he remembered.

TRAC still didn't accomplish all their goals, admitted Leonard, a Political Science Master's student. The tentative agreement signed by the previous exec made it impos-

sible to start from scratch, and TRAC fell short of two major goals: to set a minimum amount of work hours for TAs and to consolidate the two lowest levels of TAs so more would make a mid-level wage.

Concordia teaching assistants in most faculties are split into three "grades," with pay scales to match: grade one are doctoral and master's students and lead tutorials, grade two are teaching assistants who don't lead tutorials and grade threes are markers and lab or class assistants.

Under the new collective agreement, pay ranges from \$23.19 an hour for grade one TAs, all the way down to \$10.45 an hour for undergraduate markers. Leonard said they wanted to eliminate the grade three classification and bring those students up to grade two wages.

"[The university] wouldn't budge on that because that would be a huge increase in funds they would have to produce," Leonard explained.

Mehreen said TRAC placed too

much importance on ratifying the agreement in time for the fall semester.

"This agreement will last for three years," she said. "Even if we had missed one semester, it wouldn't have been a big deal. We could have taken this extra time to negotiate a more robust agreement."

Concordia's highest paid TAs are compensated about a dollar per hour less than McGill's, the highest paid in Quebec.

But all Quebec TA wages pale in comparison to their counterparts in the rest of Canada; the University of British Columbia's highest level TAs are paid \$29.54, while Ontario schools like Queen's and the University of Toronto pay \$36.40 and a whopping \$38.76, respectively.

Chris Mota, Concordia's director of media relations, said comparing Concordia to universities outside Quebec was "not doable," citing Quebec schools' lower funding.

"Recruiting and retaining and

being able to properly support our graduate students is a problem," she said. "I wouldn't say we're struggling—there are still people that will come here despite that because of a particular professor or program—but it is a real challenge if we can't offer what other universities can."

Mota said Concordia would be launching a "comprehensive capital campaign" within the next six months to a year.

"Fortunately, we're still getting top-flight students," she said. "But for how much longer, if this gap keeps widening?"

The university states in the TA and RA collective agreements that the availability of such positions is meant to be an incentive for enrolment.

"If you want to attract students, then \$23.19 an hour isn't going to do it," said Leonard. "And if you're just a grader, I mean, it's shit. I wouldn't do a grader TAship. It's peanuts. Might as well work at a bar."

# Open Season on International Students

## Complaints Against Predatory Landlords are Rising

• JASMINE PAPILLON-SMITH

Faced with a strange city, a new language and unique laws, Concordia's international students are falling victim to harassment and exploitation from landlords.

According to Concordia's Housing and Job Office—which saw complaints from international students against landlords rise to 15 per week last month—landlords are coercing tenants into paying illegal application fees, months of over-priced rent in advance and providing private information.

Students have testified that these landlords, mainly located in the Ville Marie borough, treat them with negligence bordering on harassment, refuse to make repairs to their apartments, require that their co-signer be of Canadian origin and fail to provide adequate security within the apartments.

“Things are being asked, of international students, which are clearly prohibited by the law,” said Walter Tom, coordinator of Concordia's legal information clinic. “International students should have access to the same rights as any other citizen of Canada, especially since these students are entering this society



Walter Tom, coordinator of Concordia's legal clinic, says landlords are breaking the law. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

as consumers who are putting so much money into our institutions.”

The Center for Research-Action on Race Relations, along with the Concordia Student

Union, have sent a letter to Gaetan Cousineau, president of Quebec's human rights commission, demanding that an inquiry be opened into the illegal practices of certain landlords.

“We want them to take notice of this issue. We want to open an inquiry as to what is going on down here with the systemic problems in the downtown burrows that are affecting interna-

tional students,” said Leanne Ashworth, coordinator for HOJO.

“If [international students] can't even rent an apartment without having to give their passport information, then why should we keep encouraging them to come here?” said CSU President Heather Lucas.

Thus far, however, there have been no reported cases of landlords using personal information illegally.

HOJO will be providing the government with a list of landlords whom they have discovered are infringing on student rights. Most international students, however, are usually back in their country of origin by the time the Régie des logements gets around to having their illegal application fees and deposits reimbursed.

These practices violate the right to equality without discrimination, as described in Quebec's Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. However, said Ashworth, many students are still suffering silently.

“We will talk to any student about what is happening in their apartment, encourage them to take recourse and explain to them how to do that,” said Ashworth.

## ‘Show Me the Money!’

### Concordia Administration and Support Staff to Meet for Contract Negotiations

• RAY CORKUM

Contract negotiations between Concordia University and the United Steelworkers union are scheduled to resume on Sept. 22.

The USW, representing Concordia's technical staff, seeks amendments to pay rates they feel are disproportionate to their training. They also want wage parity with other skilled workers within their industry, which would require a six per cent increase to their salary.

The Steelworkers Union represents Concordia's 96 electrical, carpentry, maintenance and en-

ergy production workers, in addition to many clerical and support staff who have been without a contract for two years.

“Our members want fair wage for their qualifications,” said Eddy Ginocchi, vice president of the Canadian Marine Officers Union of the Steelworkers local 9538, which acts as a Montreal branch of the USW.

“Our pay rates are lower than other workers within our field and have been for a long time. We're looking for fair treatment.”

Ginocchi remains skeptical that an agreement can be reached for

the time being.

“The university has been standoffish,” he said. “They are only willing to have it their way. I don't see how an agreement can be reached when that is their stance.”

Chris Mota, director of media relations for Concordia University, told *The Link* that negotiations were continuing “in good faith.”

“The university has been in need of financial reform for years now,” said Mota. “The university is entering into these negotiations with the intention of providing the best deal we can for our employees.”

She stressed, however, that Quebec universities are currently operating at a deficit and more money may be hard to come by.

“There are budget cuts and tuition hikes happening and for now there is a lot of uncertainty.”

The union is attempting to increase pressure on university negotiators, boosting their visibility on campus by wearing neon yellow shirts with the slogan “Concordia, show me the money! Negotiate now!!!”

Workers within the union are unconvinced by the university's apparent lack of means. Speaking

under condition of anonymity, one worker expressed his frustrations with this line of argument.

“They talk as if there is no money to go around, but then they allow an outgoing student president to sign off on a \$45,000 loan, without any consultation with the students or the staff or anything. That isn't need, it's mismanagement.”

The USW is one of the largest trade unions in Canada, representing 250,000 workers in various fields, including support staff working in Canadian universities nationwide.

# Cooling the Sidewalks

## Alumnus Tells Concordia to Shut its Doors

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Despite the MB building, home of the John Molson School of Business, being certified as having an environmentally friendly design, one passing Concordia alumnus spotted a crack in the structure's environmental façade.

On Aug. 31, James Dufault wrote an email to Concordia warning that the Arouch restaurant on the ground floor of the MB building was leaving its large doors open during a heat wave, venting the building's air conditioning onto de Maison-neuve Boulevard.

With the MB building lauded for its energy saving ventilation system and solar panels, the "leak" through Arouch nullified the building's environmentally friendly credentials.

"I find it irresponsible and wasteful to keep the doors open while using AC," wrote Dufault. "I certainly do not want my donations going into the general stream of Concordia's expenses so that I can pay to change the climate."

Chris Mota, Concordia's media relations director, responded to Dufault two days later.

"[Facilities Management]

looked into the matter and contacted our tenant Arouch Inc., to remind them that their doors must be closed whenever the air conditioning is running," Mota wrote.

On Sept. 3, a representative for Arouch contacted Dufault.

"This issue was brought to my attention yesterday and I quickly ordered [the staff] to stop the AC system. However, our thermometer does not have any on or off button. So we decided to bring the system up to 30C to prevent the system from blasting cool air," said the representative for Arouch.

On Sept. 4, *The Link* went to Arouch to confirm that the restaurant's AC was turned off. It was.

However, the restaurant's large doors were open and an internal door with the MB building was open. The draft caused by the two open doors still pulled cold air onto the sidewalk.

In August 2008, New York City outlawed the air conditioning of sidewalks, telling businesses that they needed to close their doors. The city found that keeping the doors of 1,000 businesses open created the annual

*Is this building up to green code? Kind of...* PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

carbon emissions of 425 cars.

With the lowest level of award under the Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design certification program, Mota told *The Link* that the university had applied for a higher silver level

of LEED.

The building's LEED level should be determined before the end of the year, Mota said.

# Lace Up Your Shoes for Africa

## Concordia Students Raise Money for Engineers Without Borders

• ADAM KOVAC

On Sept. 5, students from Concordia University's engineering faculty got sweaty for a good cause.

As part of the Montreal Oasis marathon, they took to the streets to raise money for the Concordia chapter of Engineers Without Borders, an organization that sends young engineers to Africa to improve infrastructure in the world's most impoverished nations.

"We have 10 runners from Concordia," said Jad Saleh, president of the Concordia chapter of EWB. "We have other members who set up a profile on the website. They

cannot run, but they still support the cause by collecting donations. We have roughly 20 to 25 other runners who come from McGill, École Polytechnique and the Montreal professional chapter, so we'll be about 40 people."

The engineering students have spent the last six weeks getting into shape, going on biweekly training runs. The money raised will help to send students to Africa in the coming year. According to Saleh, it can cost upwards of \$6,500 to send a student to Africa for four months.

"The reason for that is because we have to pay for the expenses of

the flight, plus food, vaccinations and finding a host family who will take care of them," he said. "And there's also the training they do before they go."

The engineering faculty and office of the dean of engineering will double the money raised by runners. So far, the students have raised \$625. The pledge from the faculty brings the total to \$1,250.

"We want to get as much money as possible," said Saleh. "We want to send as many students overseas because it's a good opportunity for them. They learn a lot, and they come back and help

the chapter."

The Quebec chapter of EWB received some good news when they learned they were finalists for an award given by Forces AVENIR, which "aims to recognize, honour and promote the achievements of students who have exhibited remarkable excellence and commitment while rigorously pursuing their university studies," according to the Forces AVENIR website.

The Quebec chapter comprises student members at Concordia, McGill, Polytechnique, Sherbrooke and the Université de Laval, and will receive \$2,000 for

being selected as a finalist. The chapter will be eligible for the \$5,000 Communication, Education and Society Award, as well as the \$15,000 Projet Par Excellence. The winners will be announced at a gala on Nov. 2.

While the money would be helpful in sending more participants abroad, Saleh said that the real payoff is knowing that the program is making a difference.

"We believe that engineering isn't just students studying math, physics and chemistry, but that engineers can take part in helping other people."

# A Leap of Faith

## Ahmaddi Muslims Seek Asylum in Montreal



Ahmaddi missionary Abdul Rashad Anwar is proud to be Canadian. PHOTO CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

### • CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Montreal's only Ahmadiyya Mosque is sandwiched between a bakery and a butcher shop north of the Metropolitan highway.

For the nearly 700 Ahmaddi Muslims that call Quebec home, the modest brick-clad building is a place to practice their religion free from the persecution many faced in their native Pakistan.

The persecution seems to have followed them.

In July, Concordia University's Pakistani Students' Association and the Canadian Council for Muslim Women booked Durre Ahmed—a lecturer, author and religious scholar—to speak at Concordia University. A few days before the event, PSA President Yassir Aziz found out Ahmed was an Ahmaddi Muslim.

On Aug. 4, the night before Ahmed's lecture, Aziz tried to cancel the speech. In an email to Shaheen Ashraf, a board member of the CCMW, Aziz wrote that he had received threatening phone calls regarding Ahmed's religious faith.

Despite the attempt at a last minute cancellation, Ahmed spoke at Concordia the following day. By the end of the week, two

PSA VPs resigned, accusing Aziz of having practiced religious discrimination against Ahmed.

"In a situation like this," said Naeem Shaheen, president of Concordia's Ahmadiyya Student Association. "I think we should give [Aziz] the benefit of the doubt. It's really between him and Allah."

On Sept. 3, the Concordia Student Union released a statement denying the allegations against Aziz's. In a letter to *The Link*, Concordia Student Union President Heather Lucas wrote, "The CSU has no reason to believe that any statements made about Aziz regarding this event are true since he has been transparent in his communications with us from the beginning."

Saad Sarfraz, one of the PSA VPs who resigned, insists Aziz and many other members of the PSA are prejudiced against Ahmaddis.

"[Aziz] told me Ahmed was an infidel," he said. "And I received plenty of hate mail [from PSA members] after speaking out against [religious discrimination]."

Sana Khalil, who also resigned from the PSA following the

Ahmed speech, also spoke out against religious discrimination. She has since suffered personal attacks from fellow PSA members.

"If there's one good thing that came out of this situation," she said. "It's that we can talk about the discrimination Ahmaddis suffer."

In Pakistan, the religious freedom of the Ahmadiyya is under siege. Federal law prevents the country's four million Ahmaddis from calling themselves Muslim, praying outside Ahmadiyya mosques or using the traditional Muslim greeting. Failure to abide by these laws can result in up to three years of imprisonment.

In May, Pakistani suicide bombers entered two Ahmaddi Mosques and killed over 80 people. There have also been reports of Ahmaddis being denied aid during the flooding that devastated Pakistan in July.

There are over 6,000 Ahmaddis currently living in Canada.

"Some come as refugees," said Shaheen. "Others come just for the opportunity."

Abdul Rashad Anwar is an Ahmadi missionary working in Montreal. Canada, he said, offers

Ahmaddis a chance at practising the Muslim faith, something he claims is nearly impossible in Pakistan.

"Because in Pakistan we must identify ourselves as Ahmadiyya on our passports," said Anwar. "We are not allowed to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, which every Muslim is supposed to make."

"But when we become Canadian citizens," he continued. "We don't have our religion stamped into our passport. We are free to enter Mecca."

Ahmadiyya Muslims believe that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, an Indian man who lived in the 19th century and founded Ahmadiyya, is the Messiah and redeemer of Islam. This belief is considered heretical by the Pakistani government.

"It's actually comparable to the differing views Jews and Christians have on Jesus Christ," said Anwar.

Anwar has been in Montreal for almost two years now. His congregation has raised money for aid in disaster relief in Haiti and is raising money to help the flood victims in Pakistan.

"We are peaceful people and we just want to be a part of this

country and help whoever we can," said Anwar. "We consider ourselves Canadian and are proud to be Canadian. We would gladly fight for this country as it has been so good to us."

Shaheen has lived in Montreal his whole life. He claims to have rarely been a victim of discrimination from other Muslims. Whether it was a case of threatening phone calls or an individual's prejudice, he said the attempted speech cancellation is a chilling reminder of the divisions that exist within the Muslim community.

On Sept. 3, Lucas told *The Link* no action would be taken against the PSA or its president. She expressed a desire to sit down with the parties involved in the PSA conflict.

"I would be open to a conversation [with the CSU and Aziz]," said Sarfraz.

"All we want is to be able to sit down and discuss our differences," said Anwar. "We always welcome a chance to talk. Not to force our views on anyone, but to have an intellectual discussion about our differences."

Yassir Aziz could not be reached for comment.

# Green Streets

## Concordia Student Union to Oversee Greening of Montreal's Alleys

• LAURA BEESTON

The current state of downtown back lanes—often filled with garbage, broken shards of glass and other debris—is about to change for the residents and merchants of Hawarden Avenue and Souvenir Street. Things are about to get a whole lot greener.

On Aug. 23, the Concordia Student Union appointed two councillors to oversee the funding for the seventh Green Alley project to hit the downtown core.

A project of Éco-quartier Peter McGill—a city-run organization aimed at engaging citizens with their environment and community—the Green Alley was recently given \$23,570 of funding from the federal government as part of an Eco Action initiative.

“We’re taking advantage of Montreal’s secondary street grid,” said Paul-Antoine Troxler, EQPM Coordinator. “It’s a way of finding a new function for a semi-public space. I say semi-public because it remains public property but [resi-

dents] sort of extend their backyards and use it in a community way.”

The Green Alley on Hawarden Avenue will undergo greening at the end of September and early October, digging up 220 square meters of land to plant five trees, 80 shrubs and 600 indigenous perennials. The project should be completed by November.

“You can’t count our project just by the number of trees we plant,” said Troxler of the current Hawarden project. “[We’re here to] help citizens help themselves become more autonomous and accomplish something beyond their own gardens to improve the quality of life,” he added.

“Our ultimate goal is to improve city living.”

EQPM hopes to eventually create a biodiversity corridor, or a “green network,” between Mont Royal Avenue and the Lachine Canal in partnership with other Éco-quartiers to the north and south.

Troxler stressed that a constantly changing student and downtown population makes it one of the most “complex and fascinating” neighbourhoods to work with, in terms of communication and upkeep of neighbourhood greening projects.

**“It’s important we don’t forget that people actually live in the heart of the city.”**

—Paul-Antoine Troxler,  
EQPM coordinator

“Our Guinness World Record is that [this area] has a 70 per cent population change every five years, according to the census,” he said. “We try to work closely with residents and it’s important we don’t forget that people actually live in the heart of the city. We try to supplement residential services, despite having the biggest commercial pop-

ulation.”

The CSU, which provides arms-length accounting oversight for the EQPM, agreed that the Green Alley projects are a step in the right direction.

“We’re basically just checking in, watching their budget [...] and keeping track of the financial transparency and seeing where the money is going,” said Morgan Pudwell, VP Sustainability and Promotion. “But it’s a really great initiative to have in the Montreal, especially with the lack of green space in the downtown core.”

Not a dime of student money will go towards the Green Alley project, she added.

After a decade-long partnership with the EQPM, who still consider themselves under the umbrella of the CSU, the Concordia student government has taken a back seat in direct involvement with development projects, despite being a key player for their initiation into the neighbourhood in 1997.

# Briefs

## Beware of Buses

A 60-year-old man is in critical condition after being struck in the head by a city bus’s side mirror on Sept. 6. Since 1998, when Concordia student Raphael Imer was struck and killed outside the Vendome metro station, three people have died from being hit by city bus mirrors.

## Terry turns 30

Students in Kirkland will celebrate National Terry Fox School Run Day for the first time Sept. 19, marking the 30th anniversary of Fox’s Marathon of Hope. The event has over 900 run-sites across Canada. In the West Island, the run will start at Heritage Park.

## Feds lift cap on tuition loans

On Aug. 20, the federal government made a last minute decision to make more loans available to university students. After reaching the \$15-billion maximum set for outstanding loans to students last month, the government shaved 12 per cent off the program to allow students to continue applying for loans during the start of the school year.

## Stinger Chief

Cory Greenwood is a Kansas City Chief. The former Concordia Stingers linebacker was drafted 3rd overall by the Toronto Argonauts in this year’s CFL draft. After being signed by the Chiefs this summer, he attended training camp and survived a series of cuts to make the NFL team’s 53-man active roster.

## Rue Frontenac jumping to print

On Sept. 4, locked-out writers at *Le Journal de Montréal* announced they would be publishing a free French weekly newspaper. The writers created the web-based *Rue Frontenac* in January 2009, after being locked out of the Quebecor owned newspaper. The print version of the website hits newsstands in October.

# The Revolving Door?

## Sitting Student Union President Got University Job in June

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

During his last month in office, former Concordia Student Union President Amine Dabchy took a part-time job with the university’s department of alumni relations.

Now a student representative on the university’s board of governors, Concordia’s highest governing body, Dabchy’s job at the university is to end before he next represents students on Sept. 30.

“I thought of the possibility of a conflict,” said Dabchy. “But I decided that if there was a conflict it would be a conflict of interest, that is why it isn’t a job I will be keeping for the rest of the year.”

Serving as a geographic chapter assistant at alumni relations since late June, Dabchy was re-

sponsible for creating and maintaining Concordia’s alumni chapters around the world.

“I made it clear to my employer that my allegiance was with students,” said Dabchy, who was elected to the university’s board during the March general election. “I think if there would be a conflict it would be with them, with one of their employees defending students.”

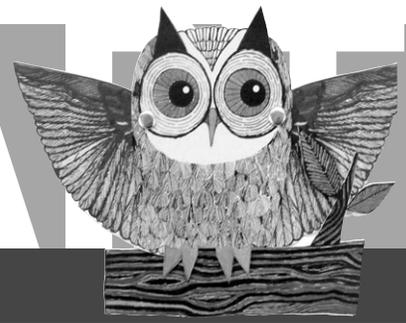
Dabchy’s successor, Heather Lucas, said that Dabchy did not keep his job secret.

“I was made aware of his position over the summer, but I didn’t make anything of it,” said Lucas. “He’s free to do whatever he wants.”

Earlier in the summer, on May 17, Concordia presented the sitting president with the Outstanding Student Award.



Amine Dabchy will end his job with Concordia alumni relations before representing students on the board of governors. PHOTO JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI



## You, an Urban Safari and Performance Art

• **ASHLEY OPHEIM**

An urban safari will be released upon Montreal this week.

No need to fret. This isn't your typical pack of exotic animals, but a pack of performance artists and the occasion is Spark, a four day performance festivity.

"There will certainly be something for everyone [at Spark], from drag to contortion, dance and interdisciplinary performance," explained Miriam Ginestier, artistic director of Studio 303.

Hosting the event, Studio 303 was founded in 1989 as a dance rehearsal and informal showing space. Now, over 20 years later, it has become a creative home for in-

dependent artists, offering professional workshops, residencies and support services geared towards dance and interdisciplinary artists, especially emerging artists.

Studio 303 coined the phrase "urban safari" to describe Spark, which will take place at several venues across the city.

Ginestier is hesitant to call the event a festival.

"Spark is not a festival because Studio 303 is not presenting a separate full program of events," she said. "We have coordinated around things already happening such as les Escales Improbables and La Chapelle's program.

"It's more like a spotlight on a

multitude of events happening in a concentrated amount of time, and at the same time."

Spectators can expect a diversity of performances from Spark. What gives the event cohesion is its intentions to push the envelope.

"What will be shared is a real concern with audience engagement, with experimentation, with pushing boundaries," said Ginestier.

Ginestier said not to be turned off by the event if you don't recognize any of the performers names.

"If people don't know any of the artists involved, the cabaret is a great way to get a taste of a real cross-section of exciting artists,"



Spark dances its way into the public on Sept. 8. GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

she said.

With nine different shows ranging from free to a \$25 charge, discounts are offered to students, there's really no excuse not to go.

"Anyone who is curious about dance and performance, or who wants to be surprised, should

come and see Spark," Ginestier said.

Spark takes place at several venues throughout the city from Sept. 8 to Sept. 12. For Spark's schedule, visit Studio 303's web site at [www.studio303.ca/en/](http://www.studio303.ca/en/)

## Clearing Out the Mould

A Summer Makeover at Concordia's VA Building Creates New Space for Students to Sculpt



Johnathan Lemieux hard at work on renovations in the VA. PHOTO DANICA JOJICH

• **ASHLEY OPHEIM**

The VA building has undergone some large transformations this summer to the delight of sculpture staff and students.

Danica Jojich, a sculpture professor at Concordia for more than 20 years, saw two first-floor sculpture classrooms in the VA building as an opportunity to improve student space. With the help of two former students, Stelo Combataras and Johnathan Lemieux, the two rooms have been completely refreshed.

"The rooms hadn't been cleaned in decades, literally," said Lemieux. "It looked post-apoca-

lyptic."

Lemieux, who graduated last June, had taken a sculpture class in the classrooms last fall.

Reminiscing on the uninspiring space, he said he was "so discouraged by the state of the classroom. I really couldn't believe it. The first day of my sculpture class—this was a new school year—and the state of this [room] was just horrible.

"It was difficult to want to be in that space to create," he added. "But you could see the room had so much potential."

The initiative to renovate the rooms began at the end of April, with both spaces currently getting

their finishing touches—they will be ready for the first week of school.

Lemieux spent up to five days a week for four months this summer painting walls, cleaning the lights and scraping the floors—a task he found to be the most daunting.

"Scraping off paint and gum and whatever else was on the floor with a blade was definitely my least favourite part of the experience," he said. "I was on my knees for three weeks, eight hours a day."

Unnecessary lockers have also been removed from the room to provide more space for students to showcase their artistic efforts.

Nearing the end of his hard work, Lemieux is nothing short of ecstatic about the "extraordinary" transformation.

"Before it was impossible [to work], we would go to class and we just wanted to leave. The space was distracting. We need, especially as artists, a workplace that is inspiring."

The relationship between public and private space is also something that interests Lemieux artistically.

"The impact of any space on people is something that we're not always aware of. We need to constantly remind ourselves that

space has an influence on its users," he said.

One of the main objectives of the project was to give more room to the students to showcase their work during critiques, a necessity the room wasn't equipped for.

Jojich is confident that the new setup will motivate students in presenting completed sculptures or works-in-progress. She is also hoping the new space for critique will create an ongoing discussion about art and ideas.

"Making art is great, but promoting a discussion of it is equally important," Jojich said.

The rooms will be unveiled to the public during *Bienvenue/Welcome*, an exhibition featuring works from Jojich's sculpture students.

*Bienvenue/Welcome* runs Sept. 7 to Sept. 17 in VA 125 and VA 126 (1395 René Lévesque Blvd. W.). The vernissage for the event takes place Sept. 8. The rooms will also host *The Sculpture Gala*, an awards presentation.

# Dø-Re-Me

## The Dø Find a Universal Language in Music



The Dø play Montreal on Sept. 9. PHOTO THE DØ



### • NATASHA YOUNG

The Dø are a happy accident. After being left to their own devices while working on a soundtrack for a French film, members Olivia Merilahti and Dan Levi couldn't find the words to say goodbye to each other. So they didn't.

"When we started working together in the studio [for the film], we kept working on different projects [such as] contemporary dance, theatre and cinema," Merilahti explained. "[And] then we started recording our own songs for the fun of it and the album just appeared."

That album, released in France in 2008 and titled *A Mouthful*, made this French-Finnish duo the first English-singing band to reach the top of the charts in France. The buzz emanated across Europe and the album was released in North America last April.

The duo are about to embark on a North American tour,

bringing the band to our neck of the woods in Canada.

Though lead singer Merilahti's first languages are Finnish and French, writing songs in English comes naturally to her and helped make The Dø's music accessible worldwide.

"It's always been [that way], since I started writing songs in my bedroom when I was 13 or 14," she said. "It's the music I listen to; it's a universal language. It's as simple as that. Once I realized that, I managed to express what I wanted with the vocabulary I had and it just stayed that way. [English comes] natural to me, and it's been the pop language for decades," continued Merilahti.

"The words [to the songs] are not even so important. I'm not really writing about my life; it's more of a poetic approach, so even people who speak English may not understand it at all," she said.

"But, of course, I'm happy to be able to travel the world and

share our music with people who speak the language."

In this sense, language is not the most accessible aspect of The Dø. Their sound incorporates varying degrees of cultural influences, tied together by Olivia's earnest, melodious voice—not to mention her charming accent.

Much of *A Mouthful* is dripping in romance, in the kind of back-and-forth confusion that comes with conflict in love, and Olivia's genuine delivery communicates those emotions well.

Upon a full listen of *A Mouthful*, it is clear that The Dø work from a great variety of influences, both European and American, both conventional and unconventional.

"We're inspired by sounds or even just a word, or a story someone might have told us, or a dream we might have had. [Inspiration is] everywhere," she said.

In tracks like "The Bridge is Broken," Merilahti's voice, sweet and delicate one moment, turns a bit raspy and breaks in

just the right moments, emphasizing the emotional content of the song.

"Unissasi Laulelet" is sung in Finnish and gives the listener a taste of rhythm-heavy world music. That same deep rhythm leads into "Tammie," reminiscent of the likes of Nouvelle Vague.

In some songs, like "Queen Dot Kong," Merilahti seems to

**"We're inspired by sounds or even just a word, or a story someone might have told us, or a dream we might have had."**

—Olivia Merilahti,  
Lead singer of The Dø

be channeling M.I.A., backed by strings and brass.

"When I write a song," Merilahti explained, "I don't decide, 'I'm going to write about this.' It's really an unconscious, automatic way of doing it. It has to be organic. We cannot do it any other way."

With no form to the chaos of their creative work, one can only imagine what The Dø are like on stage.

"It's all about energy," Merilahti explained.

"On stage, we wanted to go to some extremes, so it's louder and more explosive than on the album, and maybe more electric," she said. "We like to change the arrangements a lot. Sometimes it can puzzle the audience, but I think we're after that, as well."

Merilahti is pleased with what music has brought to her life and does not feel daunted by The Dø's success.

"With The Dø, we've managed to do so much that we couldn't have done before," she explained. "It's about complementary teamwork. There are no boundaries. We have so many plans and so many artistic dreams that we want to achieve. There's no concept; it just is."

The Dø play with Braids on Thursday, Sept. 9 at La Sala Rossa (4848 St-Laurent) at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

# Meet Your New Best Friend

## The Reading Room Offers Students a Place to Read, Relax and Gaze

### • ASHLEY OPHEIM

If you are new to Concordia's Fine Arts program or have been living under a rock during your time in the program, the EV building has a little oasis for you: the Concordia Fine Arts Reading Room.

"The Reading Room, along with Café-X, is one of the few places in the EV building where Fine Arts students can come to relax, study and socialize in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere," said Claire Forsythe, a student and employee of the Reading Room.

The student-run room has existed in some form or another since 1982. The space carries books and periodicals on art history, philosophy, contemporary art and design, to name a few.

"While there is some overlap between ours and the main libraries' collections, the Reading Room is the only place on campus exclusively dedicated to

maintaining an up-to-date contemporary art book collection, including rare and hard to find artist books, 'zines and periodicals," explained Forsythe.

"At the moment, our primary

focus is in expanding our collection of contemporary art books

to reflect the diversity of practices and dialogues that are going on in the art world now," she said.

said.

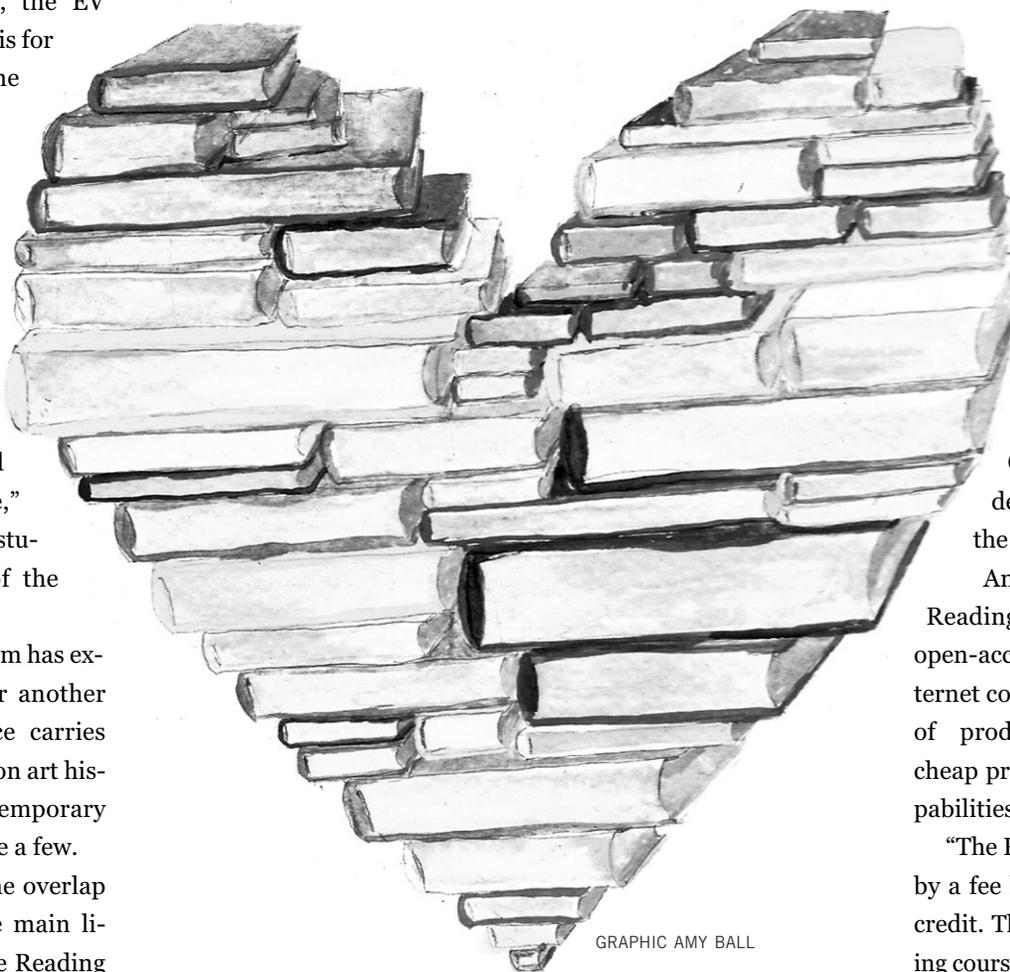
The Reading Room lends books for 24 hours. "We currently do not have a late fee system in place because we haven't found it to be necessary," she said. "Hopefully we can keep it that way."

"We work closely with [the Fine Arts Student Alliance] and other student organizations to coordinate Fine Arts events and programming throughout the year," said Forsythe. "Recently we have organized workshops, film screenings, and artist's talks."

"One of the Reading Room's major endeavours has been the creation of a six month artist residency, where two undergraduate students receive funding and [full] access to their resources," explained Forsythe.

To take advantage of the room's resources, visit the space on the second floor of the EV building.

The Reading Room is located in the EV building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.). It is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



GRAPHIC AMY BALL

## spins

### Iron Maiden *The Final Frontier*

Sony Legacy



Look, if you don't know

what Maiden's about by now, you probably aren't going to pick up *The Final Frontier* as a way in—that kind of honour is reserved for seminal releases like 1982's *The Number of the Beast*.

That isn't to say the new stuff is weak, Maiden are well into that rarified AC/DC territory, where they put out same-sounding, solid-but-not-spectacular albums every few years that are devoured by their devoted fans and ignored by everyone else.

*The Final Frontier* features all the usual stuff, complex riffs come in and out, the songs last for what seems like forever, and Bruce Dickinson screams at you. As always, you'll love it if you're already all about the metal. Everyone else will pass.

7/10

—Adam Kovac

### Ill Bill & DJ Muggs *Kill Devil Hills*

Uncle Howie  
Records



Much like he did with the GZA in 2005 with their collaborative album *Grandmasters*, DJ Muggs teams up with Brooklyn rapper Ill Bill and mans the production boards for almost all tracks.

Opener *Cult Assassin* sets the tone: dark synth lines and chopped-up drum sample that sounds like a funeral dirge play over Bill's rhymes, chock full of paranoia and conspiracy theories.

Muggs manages to keep the atmosphere heavy with grimy drum samples and a virtual army of nasty-sounding keyboards production that, while in theory sound boring, does manage to differentiate itself enough from song to song to stay intriguing.

Although *KDH* is a largely satisfying record, the repetition of lyrical themes is grating after a while and the record, comprised of 13 songs and three interludes, is just long

enough to get its message out before it overstays its welcome, a problem with other Ill Bill releases.

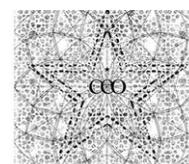
We get that he wants everyone to know about The Illuminati and that society is brainwashed, we just don't need to be beaten over the head with the approach Bill takes to writing.

7/10

—Brian Hastie

### ceo *White Magic*

Modular



ceo is hibernation, the spectacle and every breath you take. It is platinum and it is valium. It is a quasar and it is a lie. ceo is a breach forest and a slam-dunk. That is only the beginning of all of the things that ceo is, according to his website.

To be more specific, ceo can be identified as Tough Alliance's Eric Bergland's solo project. From listening to his newly released debut *White*

*Magic*, I would say that ceo can be best described as a generic Swedish electro-pop artist, and a rather decent one at that.

*White Magic* is fun and easy on the ears, as all proper pop music should be. The album is varied, upbeat and cheery. Clocking in at a measly twenty-eight minutes, *White Magic* is short, but runs through without a single dry track.

ceo has a knack for making you think "This sounds like..." But, before you are ever able to finish your sentence, the song starts to sound like something else. It keeps things interesting.

Highlights include the fantastic intro to the album's opener "All Around and Love and Do Whatever You Will," which is simply catchy as hell.

All in all, it's a solid album. Mind blowing? Not quite, but certainly worth half an hour of your time.

7/10

—Megan Dolski

# Affection, Nostalgia and Craft

Montreal Illustrator Sara Guindon Shares Her Art and Heart



Sarah Guindon is an illustrator, animator and co-runs a small arts and crafts business called The Pin Pals. WORKS SARAH GUINDON

• LAURA BEESTON

Denver-bound local artist Sara Guindon will hit up Headquarters Gallerie+Boutique for a farewell vernissage this Friday. Called Objects of Affection, the event will feature illustration, animation, lively dolls and paper puppetry.

Her art, characterized by its pretty, printed people and creatures with wayward limbs and stylized features, feels familiar and engaging.

One half of the Pin Pals stitching duo and a staple of the Montreal crafting circuit, Guindon has made her mark with memorable work about town—including Pucés Pop Montreal craft fair posters, album design for local alt-rock lovelies Parlovr and illustrations for *Vice*, *Mirror*, *Maison* magazine and

*Worn* fashion journal.

She's also the animator behind the National Film Board's short *Wiggles and Giggles*, which she completed after an intern stint for Hothouse 5 in 2008.

The upcoming show at HQ will debut Guindon's new two-and-a-half minute film *Dropkin*—a project she completed last spring that has never been screened—as well as a dozen framed illustrations and dolls made from fabric she designed and printed.

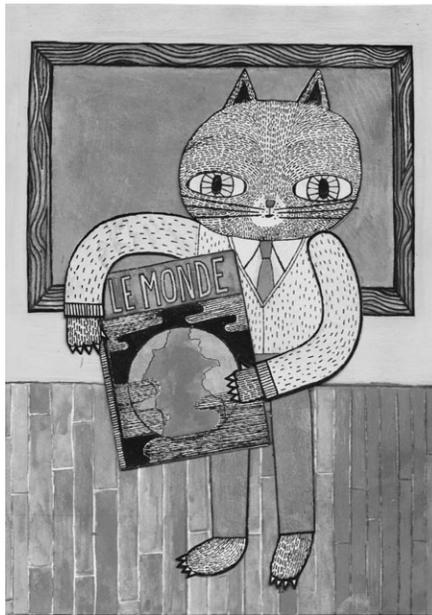
Her recent collaboration with Montreal clothing designer Supayana will also be available at the gallery. The collection fuses Guindon's artistic flair and printed design with fashion.

"[My work] is really nostal-

gic and vintage inspired," she said, citing hand-made crafts, illustrations and children's books as inspiration for her arts and crafts.

"But also just nostalgia in general," she added. "Things that give you a warm feeling—kind of sad and funny at the same time [...] I'm drawing to things that make me smile but also like, tug at my heart strings a little bit."

Anticipating feeling this type of nostalgia for Montreal, and for things to "sloooooow down" once she gets to Denver, Guindon looks forward to continuing to create animation and make more dolls once she has the time on her hands. She also anticipates the Pin Pals business will grow and change with the new experience.



## Isolation on the Silver Screen

• DEBBIE HOFFMAN

*Lavan*, Hebrew for "white," is a dark film that carries universal themes of isolation, cruelty, guilt, bravery and utter madness.

*Lavan* is a 30-minute film by two Tel Aviv University graduates, Guilhad Emilio Schenker and Yossi Meiri. The film premiered at the 34th edition of the World Film Festival in Montreal this past weekend.

The film will also be screened in Bombay, Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The main character of the film is held hostage in a male prison run by women. The protagonist is confined in a white square cell and is only fed white rice and milk. This method of punishment is known as White Torture. The prisoner does not know the reasons why he is there.

The film invites you into an unusual institute of powerful middle-aged women and barbaric methods of punishment, which will leave you with conflicted emotions on the punishers and the punished.

With little dialogue, the scenes are full of violence and sexuality and at times very hard to watch. This is not a feel-good movie but will certainly put you in a place that many will never experience.

A real prison in Iran that performs this method of torture inspired the producers. Schenker and Meiri hope the movie will expose what happens to people who are captured and then subjected to torture in these private prisons.

*Lavan* was not intended to be political, or to raise awareness on the issues in Iran or the Middle East. Instead, the movie is centered on a man's journey who is without information and contact from the outside world.

Packed with intricate scenes and lasting images, it is with little surprise that you learn that *Lavan* took four years to complete.

For the artists and crafters sticking around in her wake, Guindon isn't sure she has much guidance to give, in terms of making it by making stuff.

"Just living [in Montreal] is good advice," she said with a laugh, admitting she's a little sad to leave. "There are so many artists here that just being around is inspiring, and there's always lots of stuff going on. It's like you throw a stone and you hit an artist or musician in Montreal."

The vernissage for *Objects of Affection* takes place Sept. 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Headquarters Gallerie+Boutique (1649 Amherst St.). To check out some of Sara's work, visit [saraguindon.com](http://saraguindon.com) or [thepinpals.typepad.com](http://thepinpals.typepad.com).

# CONCORDIA

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

*The Link's* Orientation Issue



# Welcome to Concordia.



PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

If you applied to McGill and got rejected, we're sorry. It'll be ok. Our campus' landscaping isn't all that great and we can't say much for the school's architecture, but you're still in Montreal, the city once alluded to in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

By attending Concordia, you're a part of something—even if there aren't the same cultish overtones as other institutions that shall remain nameless. We haven't dug in or laid claim to any part of the city. The island is yours. Do with it as you please. Learn French. Discover Hochelaga Maisonneuve. Ride the Metro to the end of the line and find someplace you've never been to. Choose your own adventure.

Want to buckle down and get that degree? Check out page two.

Or maybe you want to take your time and get involved in stu-

dent politics. Maybe you're the voice of reason, that fiery young maverick who will reform the student union. If so, flip to page three.

If you're away from home for the first time, this could be the dawn of a new sexual era for you. Try some (safe) things out, figure out what/who you're into. The walls here may be thinner, but Mom and Dad aren't listening. Get started on page four.

Tired of the same old three chords? Montreal has the sound you've been looking for. The sound you might not even know you like. Just jump into your dancing boots and check out page six.

Or you just need to move, lift weights, learn how to throw a roundhouse kick or join an intramural lacrosse team. We've got you covered on page eight.

And after you've worked up

such an appetite, get stuffed on pages 12 to 14.

If eating isn't your thing, perhaps you'd rather just wet your whistle. We've come up with a list of places that will have you stumbling back for more. Go to pages 15 and 16. You can also consult our directory of places to avoid on page 17, because no one needs to have his or her head smashed against a curb for not wearing enough rhinestone encrusted clothing.

Above all, university is a time to just be you. And if you want to hole up and rent a selection of foreign vampire films, or suit up in some chainmail to battle your fellow medieval enthusiasts, have fun (page 18).

Welcome to Concordia.

Find whatever makes you a happy Concordian and do it.

—Christopher Curtis & Riley Sparks,  
Orientation Issue Coordinators

# Get settled

You've passed the scenic bridge. You've seen the weird UFO-like object known as the Olympic Stadium. You may even be, heaven help you, an American. Now it's time learn the lay of the land, whether you need a cheap buzz or a quiet place to study. Montreal. You're finally here.

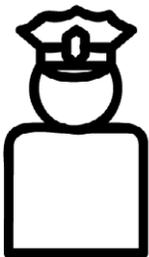
## Beer



We love cheap beer. And when it comes to bang-for-your-buck, it doesn't get much better than PBR. It's cheap, it's good (sort of), and it won some kind of award (117 years ago; they've kind of been coasting since).

At Loyola, the cheapest PBR is at Deli Pat or the Gong Show dep by George's. Downtown, try Marché Beau-soir on St. Mathieu Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard.

## Police



We've put together some pretty good advice for dealing with the cops: don't. *Les flics* are pretty bad at solving crimes (of the thousands of crimes that come across their desk, the SPVM solve about 1 in 5). What they are good at is beating people, especially kids, journalists and minorities, so it's probably best to just keep your distance.

## ConU WiFi



Concordia's Internet is buggy at best, but at least it's easy enough to connect.

Although there are minor differences between operating systems, you will probably be able to connect with the following settings:

**Authentication:** WPA2 or WPA

**Encryption:** AES or TKIP

**802.1x/EAP Type:** PEAP

**Method:** MS-CHAPV2

## Textbooks



Check the CSU's HoJo website, where you often usually find used textbooks. Also, look for posters in Concordia buildings. It's not the easiest way, but, as JFK said, if it was easy, what would the point be? Craigslist and Kijiji are also great. And take a look on Amazon. You might find sort of legally grey 'international paperback' editions.

## Groceries



If you're living at Loyola, the eight-block walk to Provigo doesn't seem terrible now, but come snowfall you'll find yourself unwilling to make the trip.

The café in Hingston does offer some basics. For everything else, the Deli Pat across campus probably has what you need. For those at Grey Nuns, try PA, located on Fort Street right above Ste. Catherine Street West.

## Studying



The downtown library is open 24 hours a day. Also, the student learning services tutor you, help you with time management, teach you how to give a presentation and generally give you the skills to get your degree. At the SGW Campus, you'll find them in Hall-440. At Loyola Campus, go to AD-103. Both are open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Health



You may need medical care during your time at Concordia. Luckily, every undergrad student is covered under the CSU health plan, including dental, visual and even chiropractic.

For details on what the CSU plan covers, check out [ihaveaplan.ca](http://ihaveaplan.ca). If you would like to opt out, you can do so between Sept. 8 and 21.

## Permanent code



If you're new to the Quebec education system, you're going to have to apply for a permanent code. Concordia will add a hefty sum to your tuition until this is done.

You have until Dec. 15 to get the paperwork in, so don't freak out just yet. You can get all the help you need at the Birks Student Service Center, room 185 in the LB Building.

## International students

### Work Permit



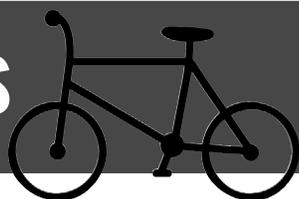
In order to receive your off-campus work permit, you must be a full-time student with a study permit and passport, in good academic standing and studying in a program. Concordia will only issue a statement verifying these things after you attend an information session hosted by the International Student Office. To do so, go to [supportservices.concordia.ca/iso/courses2.shtml](http://supportservices.concordia.ca/iso/courses2.shtml) and register for one of the meetings. After that, fill out forms from the Canadian government that you can find at [www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/work-students.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/work-students.asp). The ISO will explain the details of the process at their meeting.

### Quebec Residency



Quebec residents pay \$112.42 less per credit than out-of-province students. If you live in the province for one year and are taking less than 12 credits a semester, you should be able to pay the lower rate. Check Concordia's website to see if you're eligible. For international students, you need to have lived in Quebec as a student for three years before you can apply.

## Bikes



During the summer there's nothing quite as nice as cruising around the city in the heat. You should keep a couple things in mind, though. Bike theft is apparently the most common crime in Montreal. Get yourself a Kryptonite lock—they're pretty much un-pickable—and if you don't have one, your bike will be gone in seconds. If you've got a particularly nice bike, you might want to also lock up the wheels, seat and anything else removable, because the bike thieves in this city are like piranhas—take a look at all of the picked-apart bike carcasses in the Plateau and you'll get an idea of how ungood it is.

## Opus card



For \$38.75 a month you can ride the buses and metro as much as you want—not a bad deal at all. The only catch is that getting one of these magic sticks of plastic is something of a Lord of the Rings-style quest, only with frustrated transit employees instead of orcs. You'll have to cough up 15 bones to get the actual card, but only after you prove to the transit gods that you really, really want it by waiting for a couple hours in a horrifically long lineup.

Head on down to McGill metro weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or weekends from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and join the back of the queue of angry, sweaty students.

# Get Sexy

The Link's Guide to a Wide Open City



Delicious neon lady parts. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

## Notorious for living openly, with a flirty and fuckable swagger,

Montreal is the way it is in bed because of its righteous beginnings. It owes its unapologetic *joi de vivre* to *les filles du roi*. Since our lusty, legendary forefathers and mothers kicked things off with marital mass-hookups, Montreal has become the gaie' Paris of North America, overcoming prohibition and a morality squad by having a Quiet and free-lovin' Revolution that has kept us partying ever since. These days, the long and sexy Montreal traditions include make-outs and missed connections, as well as a ton of great places to shake it. Welcome to a very, very good place to "study." Welcome to a city that embraces the language of love, sultry summers and someone to spoon with (or spank) through the winter. There are a variety of naughty and neat things to do in this *ville* to fit your kink, so get ready to open your mind (open your legs), stay safe, sexxx it up and try not to break too many hearts. Here are a few places, faces and fun times *The Link* recommends to get saucy.

### • LAURA BEESTON

**Café Cleopatre (1230 St. Laurent Blvd.)** The resilient cabaret and strip club lies in the hardened artery of the heart of the Lower Main and is one of the last beacons of Montreal's Red Light District.

Home to drag queens, burlesque dancers, nightly peelers and a monthly fetish night, *Café Cleo's* continues to do its sexy thang despite big business and the Quartier Des Spectacle's numerous attempts to force them out.

**Super Sexe, (696 Ste. Catherine St. W.)** A few steps from our *centre-ville* study spots, this strip joint is about as classic and obnoxious as they come. Skip a little class, tap a little ass and embrace flying super sexy heroes.

**Le 281 (94 Ste. Catherine St. E.)** Ladies, Le 281 is one of the only joints for Jills looking to see ripped, buff beefcakes dance around and strip down.

Boasting "Quebec's most beautiful male dancers," Le 281 has been the place to bring a group of gals to hoot and holler for the last 25 years. These boys are very good at what they do. Get there early.

**Club Date (218 Ste. Catherine St. E.)** Likely the best out of the many very decent places to karaoke in the Village seven days a week, if that's your thing.

Classic Quebecois *québécois* with an ample selection of Céline and other karaoke classics, this is a great place to get sloppy and make out. The bar-men are fabulous, the wall-to-wall-to-ceiling mirrors make you feel like a star

and the mic smells like beer.

**Cinéma L'Amour (4015 St. Laurent Blvd.)** Formerly "The Globe" featuring Yiddish films in the roaring 20s before becoming "The Hollywood" in the 30s and "The Pussy Cat" in the 70s, *Cinéma L'Amour* has been a Montreal classic hotspot for film noir for decades.

Ideal for a sexy date night, go for the grandiose interior—which hasn't changed much despite the various signs on the door.

If you go with a friend and ignore the old guy beating off next to you, it still retains a romantic, classy charm that will keep you coming...and coming...and coming...

**Lickety Split (various locations)** Step one: find a copy of the

Lickety Split 'zine. Step two: read it, jack-or-jill-off a little and hotly anticipate the next launch or fundraising party. Step three: appreciate sex positive and pan sexual smut at its finest.

**Cabaret Faux Pas (Café Cleopatre, usually)** Montreal's sexy subversive queer cabaret is certainly something sex-positive to mark on your calendar when it rolls around.

Bringing together a variety of epic performers—they even hosted an *En Vogue* troupe last month—this party is quickly becoming a sexy staple each month.

**Faggity Ass Fridays (5656 Parc Ave.)** Having a gay old time and dancing 'til dawn in a positive space for a good cause is what this night is all about.

With all proceeds going to The Sense Project—Head & Hands' peer-based sex education program—this is definitely a feel-good party.

**La Capoterie (2061 St. Denis St.)**—Remember boys and girls, sex is sweet when it's safe. There is no better place to wrap it up than this highly specialized sex shop to the east.

With perfect erotic accessories to get kinky, freaky and fun, get ready to be blown away by the many colours, flavours, sizes and other things you never thought a condom could be.

Honorable Mention: **WOOF Bar (1661 Ste Catherine St. E.)** Lipster night every Sunday is bound to be full of queer hipsters, but with cuter bears.

# Get Involved

## A Guide to Politics @ Concordia

### A world of committees, partisanship and acronyms

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

#### STUDENTS

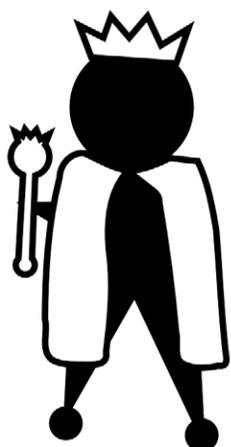
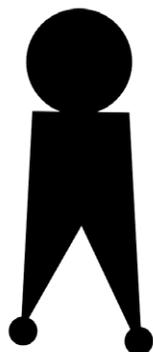
That's you. Every undergraduate student at Concordia is a Concordia Students' Union member and has certain rights because of it—like the right to call a Special General Meeting or to run in an election.

Because the CSU is an accredited student union, you're forced to pay dues to them. Since you legally can't get out of paying the fees, we recommend you exploit the CSU for every drink ticket and free service they're

worth, and maybe even cast a ballot in March.

In theory, students vote once a year in a general election to select the CSU's new administration. In practice however, the sea of glossy posters and aggressive campaigning around election time tends to induce acute nausea around polling stations for all but the most committed of voters. Changing to online voting is a very real possibility this year.

Remember though, if you don't vote, you can't complain later.



#### PRESIDENT

The president is the "decider" of the CSU. She or he is supposed to be elected to the position—although our current one was appointed by Council—and act as our fearless leader.

Despite the fact that, historically, CSU presidents have exercised powers far beyond their legal rights, they too are mere mortals and are

therefore bound by the bylaws of the CSU—except when they use a bylaw to break the bylaws by issuing a Presidential Decree.

As Commander-in-Chief of the CSU, the president is unable to declare war without the express consent of Council, which is why they had to wait until the August meeting to start suing the Canadian Federation of Students.

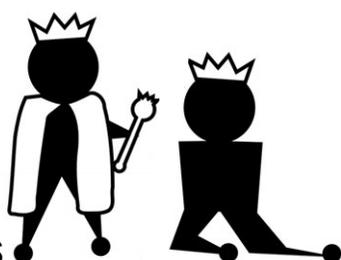
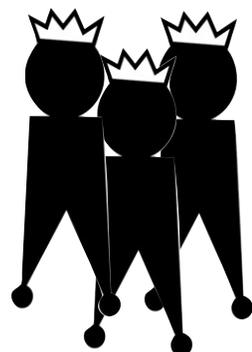
#### COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

The CSU's board of directors are made up of councillors who are legally responsible for the corporation. In theory, they exist to keep the executives in line, but because they generally run on the same team as the executive during election, they're all more or less drinking buddies.

The relationship between Council and the executive often means that instead of maintain-

ing a vital system of checks and balances, council exists to rubber-stamp decisions made weeks ago by the executive. This is made with little to no critical discussion.

Councillors who do attempt to ask uncomfortable questions have the unique pleasure of attending regular meetings on the second Wednesday of every month where they are dismissed as naive, troublesome or simply wasting time.



#### APPOINTMENTS

Council appoints representatives to the university Senate and Board of Governors. These appointments are to the most powerful bodies at Concordia.

While the debate in Council is always about who is the best speaker or most interested for

students, don't be fooled, these appointments are a political gift. Like being a CSU ambassador to Concordia. No town car is provided.

Appointments to the Concordia Council of Student Life, where all the money that is spent on student affairs around campus is decided,

and the Concordia Alcohol Committee, where students show up once a year to vote to keep the university wet, are also important.

#### CFS

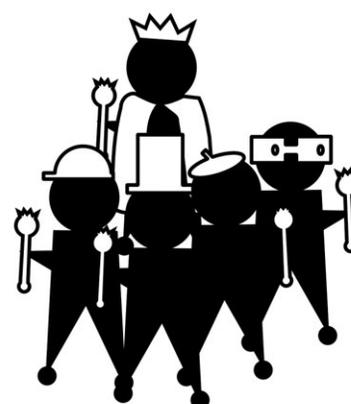
The Chinese finger trap of student politics, the Canadian Federation of Students, is a national lobby group with a reputation for mucking in local student elections, nepotism from sea to sea and using student money to sue other students.

What have you gotten from the CFS over the past year? Exciting editorials in the press, post-traumatic stress from students sent to CFS meetings and the International Student Identification Card.

Most of the CFS' services have been sold off

over the past two years, so let's say farewell to them: Student Phones, Travel Cuts and the Student Saver Card (maybe not that last one, but not from a lack of trying).

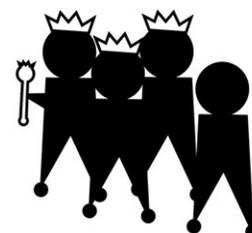
Your place in the CFS is currently unsure: a petition to leave the CFS was successful last year and students voted overwhelmingly to leave, but the CFS has yet to let Concordia go. Concordia students and politicians got so fed up with the CFS that the CSU is now using interest on money it owes the CFS to sue the national lobby group. Go figure.



#### SENATE OF FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS

A mysterious cabal of faculty association presidents—CASA, ASFA, ECA, FASA—that to my understanding has never met or functioned in any way. The president of the CSU would, in theory, chair the Senate of Faculty Associations and the three sitting representatives from each faculty association.

SoFA would have the power to review the Council's votes and send them back for reconsideration. Seeing as Council meetings already drag on for hours and voting on anything is like pulling institutional teeth, it's probably a good thing that SoFA has only existed in the minds of disturbed CSU policy wonks.



#### COMMITTEES

Committees are the working groups of the student union and are composed of at least one executive, several Councillors and a couple of students-at-large. However, because the CSU rarely advertises that positions for ordinary students exist on these bodies, the students-at-large are normally just friends of the executive.

Sub-committees, on the other hand, are where ideas go to die.



#### JUDICIAL BOARD

The Judicial Board is the CSU's one and only court. Apart from getting locked out of its office in the past and pushed into the dark corner of the CSU, the JB has had a downright miserable history. It would be getting better if the CSU ever bothered to advertise vacancies on the board.

As it stands, only two members are confirmed as sitting on the JB, although up to nine positions are available in total.

From my perspective, there are only three plausible explanations for why the JB is kept an ineffective body: Council thinks it can do the job better, the CSU can't afford the price of all the powdered wigs or the executive is afraid of the JB's power.

In theory, standing side-by-side with the Council and the executive, the JB can interpret the CSU's bylaws, which means that any individual or motion passed by Council can be thrown out. Now if only they had training to interpret law.



#### CUSACorp

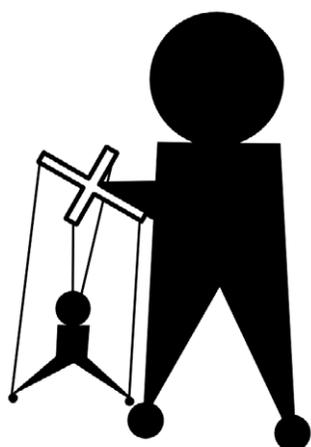
CUSACorp is something akin to a crown corporation; the CSU holds one hundred percent of the shares in the company and appoints the entirety of its board of directors.

CUSACorp is responsible for managing the leases for most of the spaces on the Hall building mezzanine and operates Reggie's, the student bar. In other words, CUSACorp is the for-profit arm of the CSU that doesn't make a profit.

#### FEUQ

For \$2.50 per semester, Concordia students get a seat at the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec's table.

The provincial lobby group argues against higher tuition and other post-secondary education issues. FEUQ has been criticized for close ties to the Parti Québécois and generally being a group of male, white, francophone bureaucrats.



# Get Groovy

One of the best parts about living in Montreal is its music scene. Montreal is infused with music, whether you're looking to catch a big show or emerging local talent, *The Link's* got you covered.



Get down on it. PHOTO JACQUES BALAYLA

## These venues cater to large audiences and big names in music.

Bell Center (250 de la Gauchetière St. W.)  
Place des Arts (175 Ste. Catherine St. W.)  
Cabaret Just For Laughs (51 Sherbrooke St. W.)  
La Tulipe (4530 Papineau Ave.)  
Club Soda (1225 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Metropolis (59 Ste. Catherine St. E.)  
Le National (1220 Ste. Catherine St. E.)

## These venues are favoured by most locals, catering to both mainstream and local acts.

La Sala Rossa (4848 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Divan Orange (4234 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Il Motore (179 Jean-Talon Blvd. W.)  
The Rialto (5723 Parc Ave.)  
Club Lambi (4465 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Ukrainian Federation (5213 Hutchison St.)

## These venues are good places to grab a beer, hang with a modest crowd and listen to some live music.

Barfly (4062A St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Casa Del Popolo (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Le Cagibi (5490 St. Laurent Blvd.)

Petit Café Campus (57 Prince-Arthur St. E.)  
L'Esco Bar (4467A St. Denis St.)  
Jupiter Room (3874 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Les 3 Minots (3812 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Bar St-Laurent II (5550 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Café Chaos (2031 St. Denis St.)  
Café Campus (57 Prince Arthur St. E.)  
Le Belmont (4483 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Wheel Club (3373 Cavendish Blvd.)

## These venues are hot spots for people who wanna put on their dancing shoes and party like a rock star:

Foufounes Électriques (87 Ste. Catherine St. E.)  
Blue Dog Motel (3958 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
House of Reggae (1639A St. Denis St.)  
Cabaret Playhouse (5656 Parc Ave.)  
Blizzarts (3956A St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Korova (3908 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Vinyl (2109 Bleury St.)  
Unity II (1171 Ste. Catherine St. E.)  
Tokyo (3709 St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Saphir (3699A St. Laurent Blvd.)  
Rockette (4479 St. Denis St.)  
Korova (3908 St. Laurent Blvd.)

• LAURA BEESTON

Whatever your upcoming semester class schedule may be, Montreal is a city truly blessed with the best excuses that ensure you don't get much sleep during the school week.

Boasting an outrageous selection of bars, clubs, music venues, dance floors, after hours and late-night poutine places, this city has a place to be seven days a week—so here are a few recommendations:

**Lundi:** Oh Monday, Monday. After a full day of the first day of the week, you may just want a cocktail when you clock out, so check a chill spot to kick up your dancing feet in preparation for the week.

**Gogo Lounge** (3682 St. Laurent Blvd.) is a good vibe if you feel like a walk down The Main, or take in the beauty of **Baldwin Barmacie** (115 Laurier Ave. W.) and the cuties at **Casa Del Popolo** (4873 St. Laurent Blvd.), which are good digs to provide some low key grooving.

**Mardi:** The Dirty Mardi/L'Esco combination is hard to beat on a Tuesday. **L'Esco** (4467 St. Denis St.) is great for punk music and a pint before heading to **La Rockette** (4479 St. Denis St.) right next door to rock out.

These neighbourly gems also feature wide staircases on the street to sit and smoke, drink from your flask, flirt or people watch if neither of the bars is playing your song. Head over to **Rapido** (4494 St. Denis St.) across the street to top it off with a poutine and some attitude from the famous blonde waitress when it's last call.

**Mercredi:** Say what you want about the St. Laurent clubbing crowd, but **Tokyo** Rock Wednesday (3709 St. Laurent Blvd.) is a good place to get you through mid-week. Start with a cheap pitcher and shot specials at epic dive **Bar Biftek** (3702

St. Laurent Blvd.) across the street before sauntering over when the clock strikes 12 and people flock to the dance floor.

Exuding a sexy, airport-meets-Japan vibe, a spacious backdoor terrasse and ample room to groove with Wednesday babes, this is one of the better club nights in Montreal that truly understands what you need to get over "hump day."

**Jeudi:** Right in our back yard is one of the better times on the town for a Thursday night party.

**Reggie's** in the Hall building (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) transforms from a medium crowd to a debauched drunk-fest once a week and you can't drink for much cheaper anywhere else. Also, perfect for breaking the ice with that hottie from class.

If you feel like getting off campus, **Korova's** (3908 St. Laurent Blvd.) or **Salon Officiel** (351 Roy St. E.) are also decent places to dance your week away. Cheap tall boys, soul music and cute clientele make Korova's a good Thursday go-to, but if grooving with beer in hand is not your style and you feel like a clubber club, Salon Officiel is a good place to drink a G&T.

**Vendredi et Samedi:** Okay folks, there are just too many choices on the dance card for these nights. I mean, I could provide an extensive list here, but who are we kidding? There's just too much to write about. The "choose your own adventure" mentality definitely applies to these nights, so take the town by storm and enjoy your weekend.

**Dimanche:** Congratulations. You have survived another week of post secondary education and are gearing up for yet another to come. At this point, there's one day left in the week so why not shake it at **Blizzarts** (3956 St. Laurent Blvd.) or hit up karaoke in the Village on the Lord's day? You earned it.

# Get Active

## Exercise at Concordia's Athletic Facilities



Oh my god, they're breakdance fighting. Students take Capoeira classes at Concordia's Le Gym. PHOTO RILEY SPARKS

• ALEX DI PIETRO

### Le Gym

(EV Building, 1515 Ste. Catherine St. W. 514-848-2424, ext. 3860)

Located right inside the EV building, students living or studying in the downtown area should consider Le Gym the perfect place to maintain their fitness level.

First-time goers are admitted for free and along with its friendly atmosphere, Le Gym's weight room is open just under 100 hours a week at a rate of \$60 per semester for all Con U students.

Le Gym may not have the giant plasma screen TVs sometimes found elsewhere, but its 10,000-square feet of space offer numerous treadmills, weight machines and free weights. Personal training is also available on an appointment basis at a rate of \$25

per hour. There is also a towel service on hand, which supplies 20 towels for \$11.40.

Those looking for more than the conventional gym experience will also find instructional classes offered in a wide variety of disciplines at Le Gym. There's everything from aerobics to martial arts, with the level of intensity depending on how many times a week a student wants to practice his or her chosen activity. The intensity of each discipline also progressively increases week after week.

The prices of courses range from \$15 to \$50 for Con U students, with prices slightly higher for the general public. Students are advised to register quickly for instructional classes, as space is limited.

Unlike the registration process for academic courses at the uni-

versity, Le Gym actually accepts credit cards as a form of payment.

For more info, contact Vladimir Pavlicik, associate director of campus recreation, at 514-848-2424 ext. 3861 or [pavv@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:pavv@alcor.concordia.ca). A lists of classes can be found at [athletics.concordia.ca/campus/legym.html](http://athletics.concordia.ca/campus/legym.html). For the full list of Le Gym rules and regulations visit: [athletics.concordia.ca/campus/legym\\_rules.html](http://athletics.concordia.ca/campus/legym_rules.html)

### Athletics Complex

(7200 Sherbrooke St. W., 514-848-2424 ext. 3858)

The Athletics Complex, located on Loyola campus, is ideal for students who want to play intramural sports. There are currently 10 leagues, some with more than one division. Ice hockey, for instance, has five divisions with the top league ideal for students with a

very high skill set.

Ice hockey takes place at the Ed Meagher Arena and players are expected to come prepared with all required equipment. The fee for hockey will also be substantially higher than most of the other leagues.

Lacrosse 101 will be a new activity introduced in November, just in time for the opening of the Stinger Dome, which will also feature soccer and ultimate Frisbee. Other sports, such as indoor soccer and basketball, will be held in the gymnasium. Game times, days and season-openers vary for each sport.

In order to start a team, a captain must go to the Athletics Complex front desk and register. Payments can only be made with debit or credit card. The only risk captains take by registering teams is that they will not be refunded the registration payment upon

voluntary withdrawal or expulsion of the team. All other players are refunded the full amount within seven days of the day they registered on.

The other campus also boasts the Loyola weight room, which is quaint and can be useful for those who don't necessarily want to go downtown for their workout. The hours of operation at the Athletics Complex are also limited and personal training is not offered.

More information about the Athletics Complex can be found online at: [athletics.concordia.ca/campus/sport\\_leagues/default.html](http://athletics.concordia.ca/campus/sport_leagues/default.html).

Those interested can also get in touch with Ray Kirkwood, coordinator of campus recreation, at 514-848-2424 ext. 3858 or at [rayk@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:rayk@alcor.concordia.ca).

# LOYOLA CAMPUS



Second Cup



Deli Pat



Con U Gym

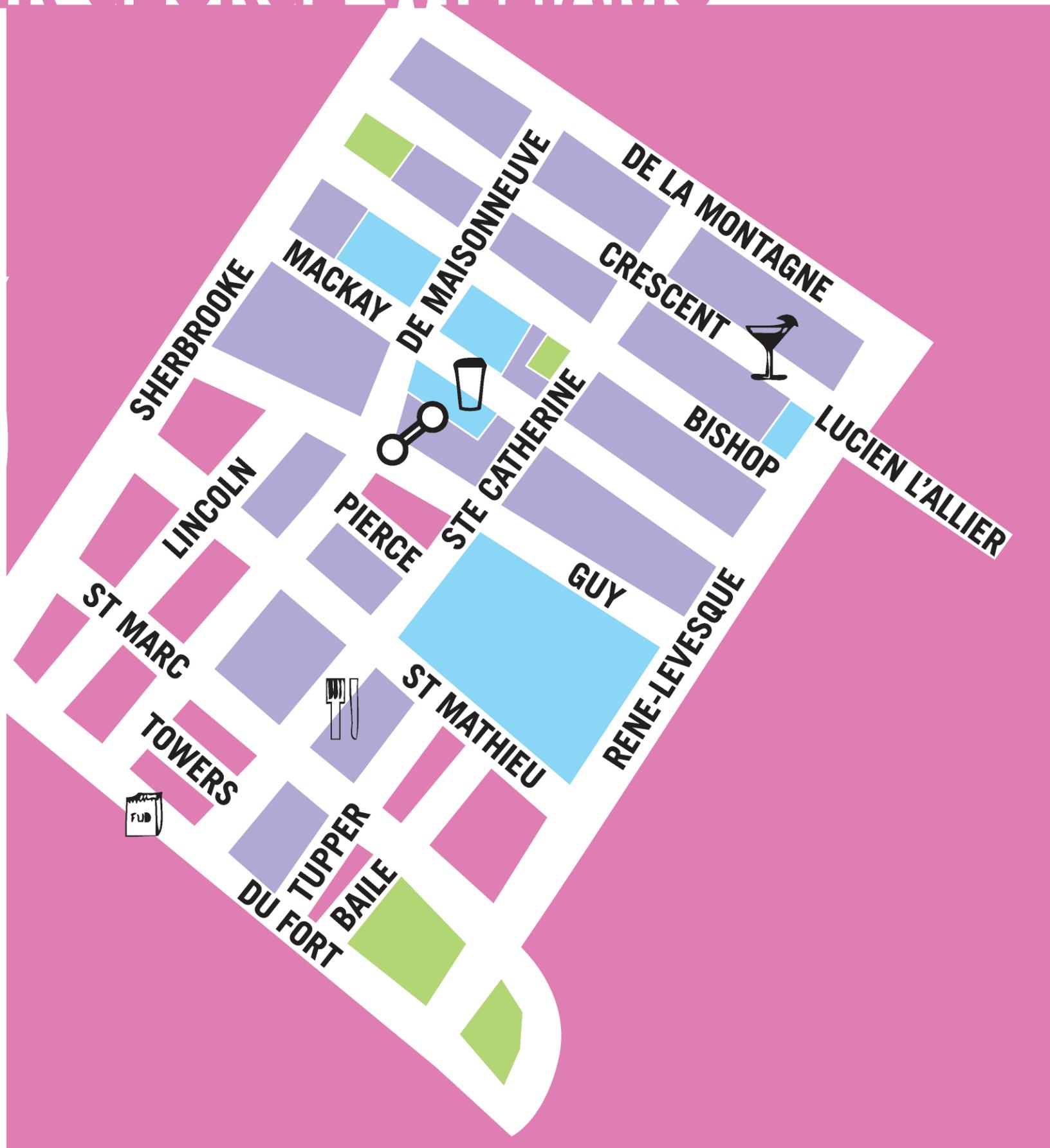


Deli Pat



Souvlaki George

# SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS



Myriade



PA



Le Gym



Brutopia



Kazu

In 1996, The Montreal Forum closed, effectively devastating the western edge of downtown. Without the near constant flow of hockey games, concerts and Superdog dog shows, business dried up and the neighbourhood was on its knees.



Meanwhile, in Chinatown... Merchants were running out of space. Highway 720 cut through the southern edge of Chinatown while the Quartier des Spectacles hemmed in the north. Together these two factors spawned...

# ...Son of Chinatown

For the six blocks along Ste. Catherine Street between Guy Street and Atwater Avenue, a second Chinatown emerged in the late 1990s. A neighbourhood once swelling with Harvey's and Dunkin' Donuts gave way to noodle restaurants, wok cafés and Japanese barbecue joints. Here are some tasty selections from the neighbourhood informally known as Son of Chinatown.

## KAZU



You haven't lived until you've eaten pig's neck and washed it down with a bottle of sake. People line up around the block to get into Kazu. Where else would they go for salmon's belly and Japanese tandori? Kazu is small, crowded and the menu is almost always improvised, but it never disappoints. Because it is always in such high demand, the food is always fresh. Almost everything on the menu is marinated, barbecued and on your plate in minutes so you can enjoy some James Brown while you feast.

## Soup & Noodles



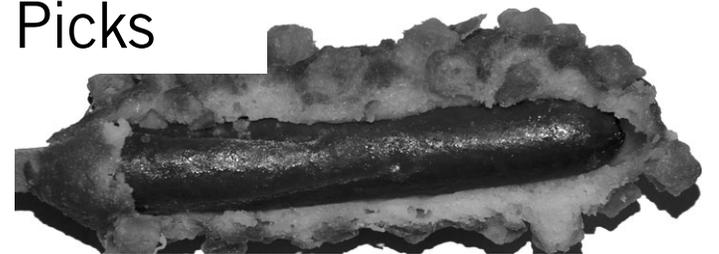
Not the best Chinese food ever, but they're open till 4 a.m. nightly. So if for whatever reason you need General Tao chicken or won ton soup in the dead of night, you'll know where to go.

## Wok Café

There was a time in my life when the Wok Café delivery guy and I had a very special relationship. I was unemployed and rarely left my apartment; he brought me delicious curry chicken and rice. It got to the point where I didn't even have to give the Wok Café people my address anymore, they just knew. The menu is pretty run-of-the-mill Asian/Southeast Asian wok cuisine, but you won't find a much better tasty food-to-money ratio in town.



## Picks



Kogo: It's the crunchy treat your cardiologist has been warning you about. Kogo is a Korean Pogo: a hot dog, on a popsicle stick, deep fried in a flour batter, topped with bits of French fries that you dip in honey mustard.

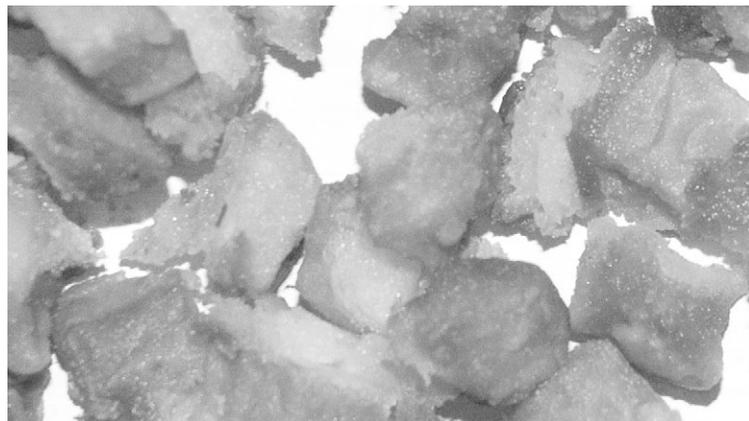
It's a mouthful, but if you aren't up for an incapacitatingly delightful snack, you can always try some of Picks' delicious hamburgers. Burgers come with a laundry list of topping options, including fried egg, caramelized onions and chipotle mayonnaise.

## Ichiban

They don't have a liquor license yet, but I'm told it's in the mail. Pretty solid Japanese ramen, excellent pancake dumplings and great chicken dishes. It's also quiet and pristine, good for a date or for people watching, depending on which stage you're at in life.

# Chow Down for Cheap

Spots to Eat for Less than \$5



Coat your stomach with grease, it's cheap. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

• TRISTAN LAPOINTE

Downtown, especially near Concordia, is a culinary wasteland.

However, you do have options. Slash your budget to \$5 and those options dwindle. Barring Al Taib and the various “pizza combos” available on every corner in Montreal, there isn't much. Here's my guide for spots that won't kill the budget and aren't more than a five-minute bike ride from campus.

**Depanneur Elephant 1434 Chomedey St., near Ste. Catherine. Street**

There's really not much to say other than that I personally like this place. It's practically the only place on the street, and is just kind of weird. Jamaican patties are a buck for two.

**Clafouti Inc (Le) 2122 Drummond St.**

Between 11 a.m and 1 p.m, the line from this place backs out the door and down the block. Nestled in between a nail salon and, uh, another nail salon, Clafoutis does awesome 12” sandwiches for less than five bucks, and has tons of different salad and egg roll options.

**Brochette.ca. Corner Rene Levesque Boulevard. and Lucien L'allier Street**

This place is weird. It popped up this spring and has mystified many since.

Located in an abandoned parking lot, Brochette.ca is both website and restaurant. It's kind of expensive, but they have a chicken and rice deal that comes in at

under \$6. Share a plate with a buddy and you'll both be spiritually and mentally fulfilled.

**Café Trisip, 1165 University St.**

Nothing radical here, just good deals on sandwich and salad combos. Coffee for a buck makes it worth the short bike ride from campus.

**Real Bagel, 4160 Ste-Catherine St. W.**

And you thought there were only two bagel mongers in town. Real Bagel looks like it belongs in Mile End. Dudes shoveling bagels into the fire all day and night just for you!

Unlike Fairmount and St-Viateur bagels, you can actually sit down inside and enjoy them, or any number of sandwiches, coffees, and salads.

**Harmonie, Guy Metro Tunnel.**

Formerly only in Chinatown (I, not II), Harmonie offers buns of all types! The best part is they're dirt cheap, and the atmosphere at Harmonie is nice enough that you don't feel like a dirtball for eating 3 bacon and corn buns for dinner. Hint: Try the bacon and corn buns.

Banks. Most banks downtown have upscale clientele. Or at least are frequented by people who actually have money in them. As such, the flagship locations are usually in big buildings and have lavish, spacious lobbies. Many of them also offer cookies and coffee free of charge. Hint, look between Metcalf and Bleury.

# Coffee with a Conscience

Enjoy Fair and Direct Trade Coffee near Campus



• KATHRYN POBJOY

For when you want to enjoy a cup of coffee without the guilt of economic oppression, *The Link* has compiled a list of places worth checking out.

**Café Myriade—1432 Mackay St.**

Not only does Myriade provide and support the direct trade model, this café takes coffee to the highest professional level. The staff at Myriade turns the coffee brewing process into an art. Each employee has earned the title of Barista through devotion to their craft and respect for their product.

The result? A consistently phenomenal cup of coffee that won't break your bank account and a collection of people who love and take pride in what they do. Admirable on all fronts.

**Le Frigo Vert —2130 Mackay St.**

At fifty cents a cup for tasty, fair trade organic coffee, Frigo

vert gets the prize for best value.

While they are not your typical coffee shop (and are in fact a non-profit food co-op), they do offer a comfortable, pleasant environment in which to both hang out in the lounge and to buy environmentally friendly produce and products in the co-op section.

Just a hop, skip and a jump away from the Hall building, this is the ultimate place for students to chill, learn and sip a conscious cup of coffee. Just remember: bring your own reusable mug.

**Kafein—1429A Bishop St.**

This place oozes charm and originality. It continues to be a student favorite due to its proximity to Concordia, its chill ambiance and the effort it makes to provide genuinely tasty food and really great coffee.

At two dollars for a generously large cup, Kafein is easily one of the better prices you will find for coffee downtown, especially when you factor in the fact

that it is both fair trade and organic.

**Caffè ArtJava—Downtown: 645, Av. Du Président-Kennedy Plateau: 837 Mont-Royal Ave. E.**

Easily my favourite cup of coffee in Montreal. While the trendy decor doesn't exactly invite me to curl up and study for hours while nursing a single cup, the quality is undeniably exceptional and the cost is reasonable as well.

Filter coffee will run you \$1.50 for a medium while a single espresso costs \$1.99, \$2.44 for a double. The filtered was so lovely that, contrary to my usual preference, I preferred it to the espresso.

The location isn't exactly university adjacent, but it's worth the walk. Expect a lush, smooth, delectably mild coffee, completely lacking the bitter, sour or burnt flavors that one encounters in lesser venues. Not only exactly what I look for in a cup of coffee, but the café uses direct trade beans as well.

# Deconstructing KOGO

## What's Inside Your KOGO? A photo essay by Riley Sparks

• WORDS & PICTURES BY RILEY SPARKS

Pick's is awesome. Their burgers are so good that I really had to think for a while before trying something new and ordering that mysterious menu item – the Kogo. The Korean Pogo is a hot dog, battered in flour, deep fried, encrusted with fries and then jammed onto a stick. Don't forget to ask for dipping sauces.

Awesome. Remember your last visit to the doctor? What did your doctor say about your heart? Exercise more and stop eating so much junk food?

Fuck your doctor. He doesn't know anything. What's med school anyway?

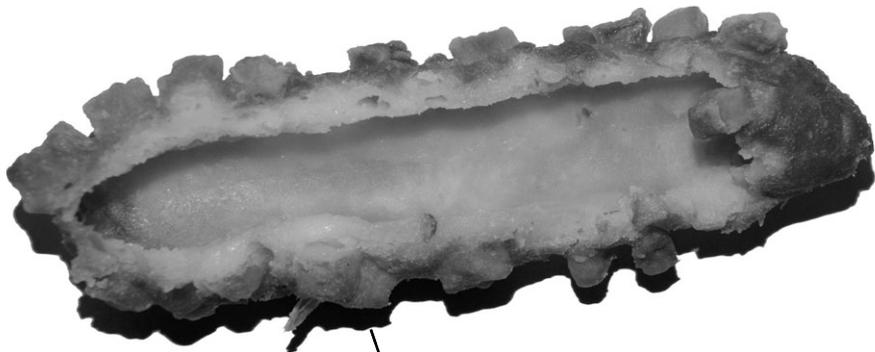
Have a Kogo and be happy.



Popsicle stick



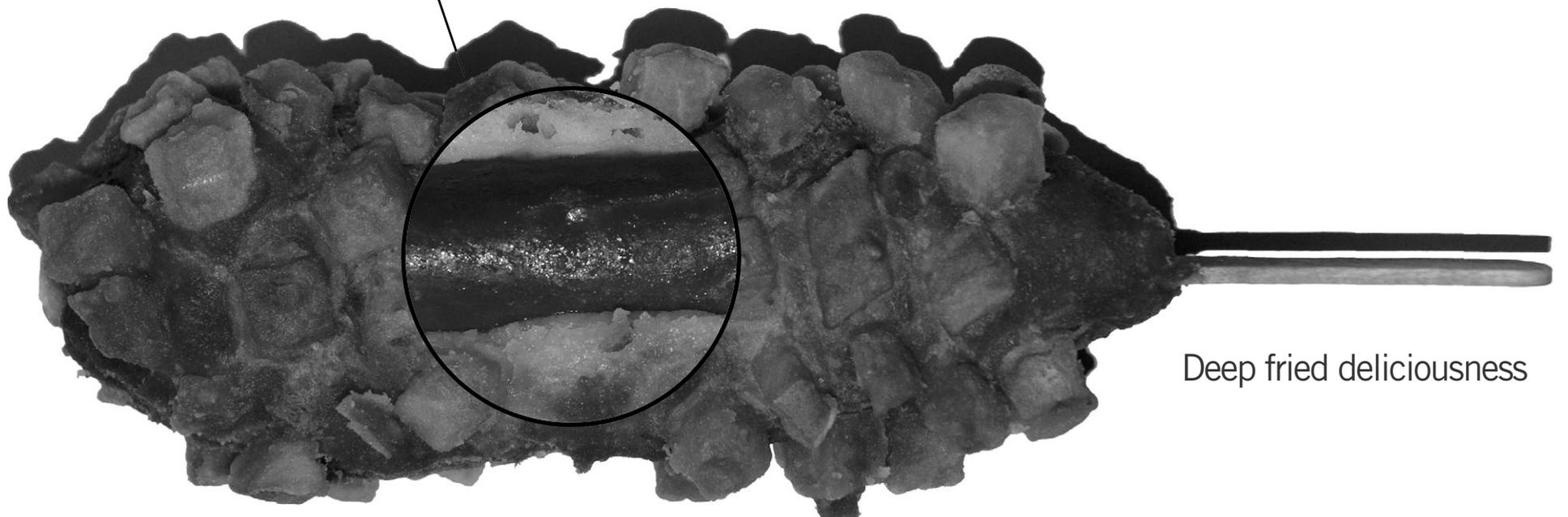
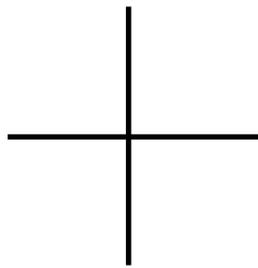
Hot dog



A wiener sleeping bag



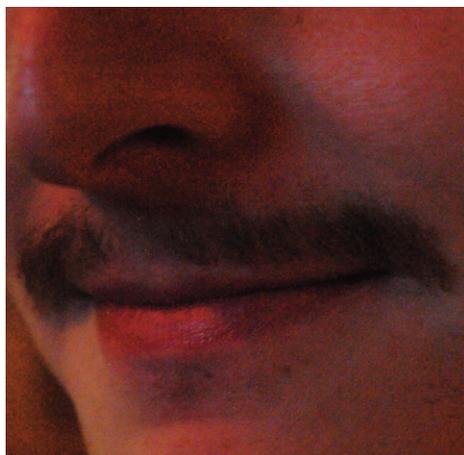
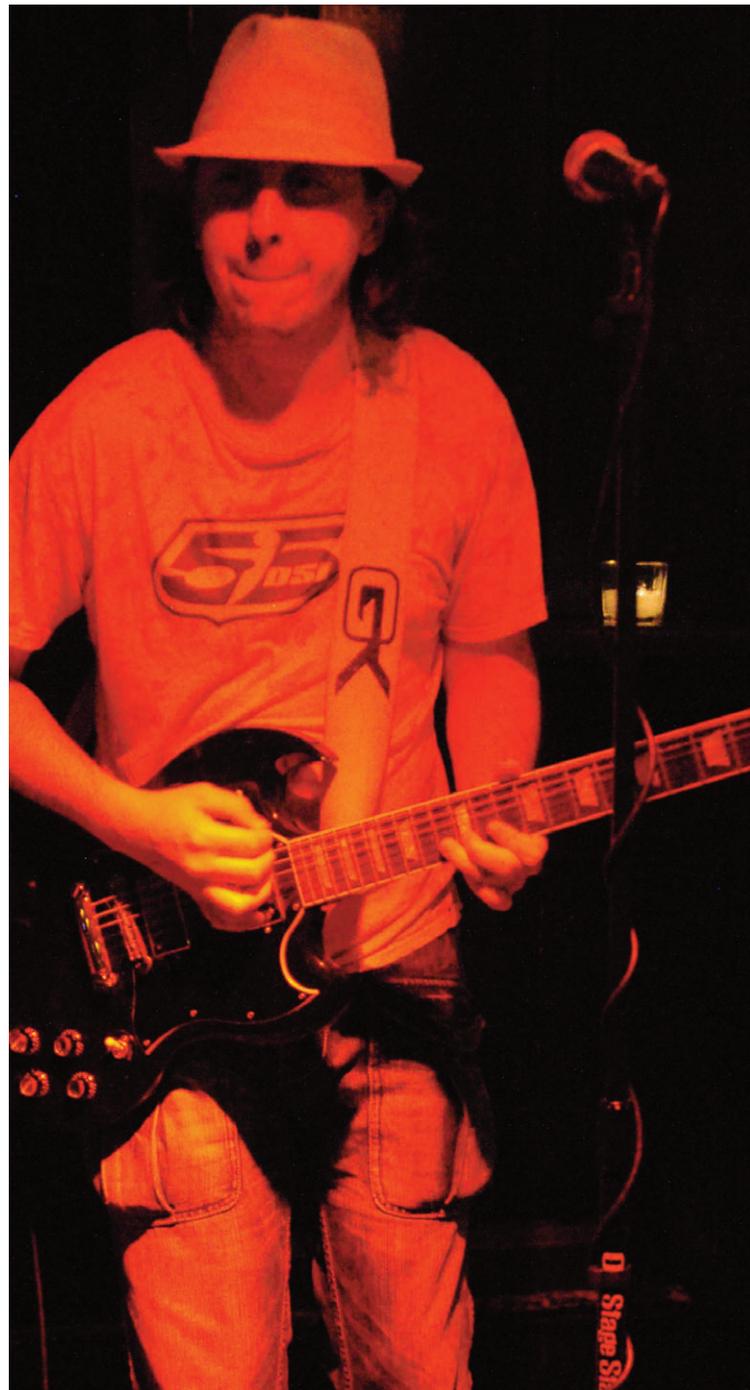
Patates



Deep fried deliciousness

# Get Bent

The Link's Guide to Surviving Crescent, Bishop and beyond



Honestly, I don't remember taking these pictures but now that I look at them I can start piecing my night together. We saw a band play? Someone had a mustache? Sweet Jesus.

PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

## • ALEXANDER SAINT LAURENT

A new day is upon us.

The vomit has been hosed down, the hand dryers have been reattached to walls and retinas can begin their recovery from the burn of neon T-shirts.

Frosh is over, friends. Rejoice and let the real drinking begin.

If you are new to the city you may be inclined to amble towards Crescent Street. It is bright, it is loud and it is a mistake. This street, by and large, is a zoo. The excess-driven animals are rampant and will easily turn on you in a squeeze.

A popular strip for tourists, this thoroughfare is good to avoid while the city becomes your home for the next three to four years. Yet, if like a moth to the flame, you can't help yourself,

your best bet is Brutopia (1215 Crescent St.), located below Ste-Catherine Street West and across from the once-great Mad Hatters.

Brutopia is a popular Concordia student haunt, although the crowd skews to the older, more bearded side. Their brew is homemade with five beers on tap year round and a seasonal rotation of three at a time. The India Pale Ale is a classic choice, while the Scotch Ale should be embraced and enjoyed when available.

You'll appreciate the dim setting for your after-class pints, especially if you end up sharing more than notes. The live music will help your cause, especially if you catch the Thursday night act whose Bowie covers are as close

as you'll get to the real thing.

Important note concerning Brutopia's happy hour: it lasts until closing on Mondays.

Now that you have experienced the Crescent Street circus, collect your wits and head one block west to Bishop Street.

Situated only paces from the LB building, Mckibbin's Irish Pub (1426 Bishop St.) is a logical choice for student and staff alike. With a menu including chicken quesadillas, bison burgers and curry poutine, the pub grub is easily the best of any bar in the downtown area. If you feel you can stomach the abuse, take on the Rimp Reaper chicken wing challenge for a crack at the wall of fame. You have to sign a waiver first.

The pub counts three floors

and a beer garden for all your drinking needs, the latter of which is promptly converted to a heated smoking area in the winter. By 10 o'clock or so, a live band will replace the bartender's playlist on the main floor, while the dance area upstairs will blast the usual and trending club beats.

Wednesday night is Ladies' Night, which invariably entails loads of undersexed young men in tight T-shirts, so proceed with caution and watch your drink. But if your patience persists through the meat market, you will be treated by one of the more down-to-earth staff in the area. On that note, sharing the occasional shot of whiskey with the barmaid will take you a long way.

If you have homework, do it.

Otherwise, head south on Bishop Street, past Ste-Catherine Street West and step down into Grumpy's Bar (1242 Bishop St.). The aura of lore that you feel when you walk in is one that has been earned and not reproduced with clever décor.

Run by the same owners for over 30 years, there is a distinct hometown feel to the space. Get to know the staff, including Evan, Garth and Gern, and you'll be sure to become a regular. There is no kitchen to speak of, but happy hour specials include four-dollar pints of local brew. After you've knocked down three or four of those, food will be an afterthought.

Be sure to try your hand at a game of darts in the back room. Playing 401 is a classic contest,



Clockwise from top left: Ram the Grumpy's Bartender says "If anyone steps on stage and starts playing Brown Eyed Girl, somebody's gonna die." Almost out of beer. Out of beer. Thirsty Thursdays at Reggies. PHOTOS RILEY SPARKS

although "Around the Clock" may be easier to keep track of.

Grumpy's crown jewel is its live music schedule ranging from Jazz on Wednesdays to Bluegrass on Thursdays and Rock and Roots on the weekends. The celebrated Chick Pickin' Mondays showcase local female talent and Tuesdays are open mic nights.

You'll find both a front and back terrace, and a depanneur across the street if you need smokes. And if you've had a particularly bad week, partake in the "Bitch About Your Boss" contest and win an Irish Car Bomb if the audience feels your pain.

Find your pants, hydrate and let's do it again.

If you're between Fort Street and Atwater Avenue, there is only one bar you need know

about: Bull Pub (2170 Ste-Catherine St. W.). You might be hesitant as you step inside and perhaps even retreat to the Cock n' Bull. That would be a mistake.

**The Bull Pub is like a good pair of boots. It is heartening attitude. It is total lack of pretense.**

The Bull Pub (2170 Ste-Catherine St. W.) is like a good pair of boots. It is heartening atxxxxtitude. It is total lack of pretense. There is a pool table on the bottom floor to scratch your billiards itch with a willing opponent never far out of reach. On the main floor you will find a jukebox with a generous and eclectic catalogue of drink-

ing songs.

There is a rotation of Barn Burner bands that provide live music on weekends, where the dancing is always good and the pitchers flow with ease. Keep an eye on the chalkboard outside. If you see the words "Shane Murphy Trio" scratched on, know that you will be partying like it is your job.

The pub is family-owned and managed, and each of the ladies that will serve you is as earnest and gracious as the last. The clientele is a mixed bag of locals, both young and old, along with the occasional wayfarer. You will see the VLT kith and kin, but also the group of men that have been drinking together for years and the superstitious old timers averting their eyes from

the game. You will see pitchers of gin and tonic go by, and paddles of shots. You will hear great stories and tell your own.

The Bull Pub is as close as you will get to the hometown tavern you left behind. With a newly opened kitchen you will also be able to coat your stomach with grease between shots of whiskey.

For those dark winter days—and there will be many—why bother going outside when Reggie's (1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.) is right downstairs? Only a fool would overlook our campus watering hole when looking to wet his or her lips. Look out for specials on bottles of beer as well as a rotation of DJs throughout the week.

Reggie's is an ideal spot to

catch the Canadiens game if you have the time to spare, or to at least poke your head in to catch the score in between assignments. You would be surprised at how long the line gets on Thirsty Thursdays, with students wandering over from other schools to join the party.

What the bar lacks in ambience, it makes up for with a boisterous crowd. A good night at Reggie's is usually the floodgate for a great night out.

No matter where you choose to throw them back, remember that a good tip goes a long way. You have three to four years of solid drinking ahead of you; it wouldn't hurt to make friends with the people making your drinks. In the meantime, bottoms up.



# Get Benter

More watering holes to dip your toe in

• DIEGO PELAEZ GAETZ

## Bar Bifteck

For those newbies with the courage to venture past the downtown core, Bifteck Bar on St. Laurent is a perfect antidote to obnoxious Plateau hipster snobbery.

This is a dive bar that is perfectly aware that it is a dive bar. No blaring music, no overpriced food and especially no dancing. Just cheap beer, popcorn and good times.

Now, I'm not about to turn up

my nose at Mad Hatter, and I've had many a good (and bad) time there, but there's no question: Bifteck is the best dive in town. Better location, better ambience, less general douchebaggery.

Kids, I know Crescent is fun, with all the bright lights and hustle and bustle, but just trust me: If you bring your friends a little further east, you will be the cool one in the group.

On an unrelated note, according to friends of mine, it's either the best place or the worst place to be while you're tripping on

mushrooms (depending what stage of the drug you are experiencing.) Just some food for thought. Do you think a bar would be upset that I listed "cool place to take illegal drugs" as one of its merits? I'm thinking no. Any publicity is good publicity, right?

## Café Chaos

For those who love punk, Slayer, and band names with some sort of "phagus" suffix, Café Chaos is a must-visit.

On top of the awesome gen-

eral pirate theme, you can feel like you're sticking it to big corporate interests by supporting one of Montreal's co-operatively owned music establishments. Rather than a man in a suit, the owners of this joint look like extras from "Pirates of the Caribbean." Any place that kicks someone out for having McDonald's as a simple matter of principle, rather than for any conflict with their own business, is a winner in my books.

Café Chaos also plans to open

an open mic night starting next month that will have a drum set on-site. For a new band, it's a perfect venue to test your chops in front of a good-sized crowd in a neighborhood that people actually want to visit.

If the music scene in Montreal has a few too many "noise" bands and tweed-jacketed, bearded-vested acoustic singers for you, and you're aching for a little deep, fuzzy bass and face-peeling guitar solos, enter the pirate den and get ready to get sweaty.

## Don't get bent Places to avoid in Montreal

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

Sometimes knowing where to get a beer and some food starts with knowing where not to go.

## Any club on Crescent Street

Clubs on Crescent are basically dick factories. They don't literally mass-produce penises, but they almost literally mass produce penises. This is where the people who bullied you in high school have regrouped and formed a parallel society in which the word club has become a verb, adjective, adverb and a pronoun. Or where a fair fight is three guys curb stomping you for "looking at my girl." If you're a serious fan of the show Jersey Shore, I take back everything I just said.

## Peel Pub

Tourists always fall for the Peel Pub. Sure the beer is cheap and the line to get in suggests that, on some level, there must be something worth waiting for in there. Sadly there isn't. It's



just a bunch of tables and televisions and, because it's so easy to get lit, the inevitable Montreal / Boston, Montreal / Toronto, Toronto/everyone arguments arise. I once got into a shouting match with a young Bostonian who decided to conclude the ar-

gument with a rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" followed a quick pledge of allegiance.

## The Cock and Bull

Since the bar's previous owners were unceremoniously given the boot, the Cock and Bull has

turned all kinds of sour. The Bull was once a perfect snapshot of the downtown west side. It was a hearty mix of students, professors, tradesmen and local maniacs that banded together for Labatt 50 and live bluegrass. Under Peter Sargakis' efficient new management, the Bull now

features fake stone walls, blue neon lights, yuppies and a pack of bouncers waiting for a chance to open a series of doors with your head.

## Les Deux Pierrots

This is one of those bars with a strict "no fun here" policy. I remember being abruptly thrown to the curb for jokingly leap-frogging over a friend. The beer is also too damn expensive. Plus the bar is so full of angry sovereigntist fervor it could separate from the rest of Old Montreal and float into space at any moment.

## Dunn's Famous

For years Dunn's ran an ad featuring an especially phallic cartoon pickle who told a lady costumer "I may be small but I sure am juicy," as he jumped up her leg. Now every time I think of Dunn's I think of sexual depravity. It's just not the right mindset to be eating smoked meat in.

# Get Weird

## Sound on Sight

• CHRISTOPHER CURTIS

After weeks of drinking your organs into submission, you might want to consider a night in.

When that moment of clarity is finally upon you, put your viewing pleasure in the capable hands of the folks at Movieland, one of the last great mom-and-pop video stores in Montreal.

For decades now, the store has been fending off Blockbuster, Videotron and Netflix. Not only does Movieland have an excellent selection of DVD titles—there are over 25,000 in all—or its knowledgeable staff, Movieland is that rare video store where you can just hang out, watch a movie with the clerks and talk about whatever. It may also be the only video store that has its own radio show.

Two and a half years ago, Rick Da Conceicao, one of the store's employees, started a film-themed radio show at Concordia's CJLO. Along with Concordia student Simon Howell, Da Conceicao created Sound on Sight, an hour-long program that ties in genre, mainstream and independent films.

"Major television, radio programs and newspapers have converted film critiques into like a formulaic, dumbed-down form of



Rick Da Conceicao: Your friendly neighbourhood video store clerk, radio host, Internet sensation. PHOTO ANGELA HÉGUY-JOHNSTON

advertising," said Da Conceicao. "The host, writer or critic don't really offer an honest opinion about the medium."

"The thing about Sound on Sight is that we're, first and foremost, honest."

During a typical show, Da Conceicao, Howell and a third host—often another Movieland employee—will discuss one new release and link it to similar more obscure films.

"Take a movie like *Twilight*," said Da Conceicao. "We'll review *Twilight* and look back at two other vampire movies and that will be the show. So we use *Twilight*—and clearly we weren't fans

of *Twilight*—to draw attention to hidden gems.

"Like this Swedish vampire film called *Let the Right One In*," he continued. We were the first show in North America to review it and when we did we got tons of emails from around the world thanking us for introducing people to that movie."

After broadcasting a few shows on CJLO, a friend of Da Conceicao's suggested he set up a website where Sight on Sound could be archived and available to a worldwide audience.

The show quickly became an Internet sensation. Sound on

Sight has been shortlisted as one of the top 10 movie-themed podcasts in the world for three years running.

"I am consistently shocked at how many listeners we have," said Howell. "But I am not surprised because we work like hell to make it the best possible show we can."

Every week, Howell and Da Conceicao watch hours of film to prepare for their show, and they spend their free time updating the show's website with reviews and other movie-related content.

They have gradually collected a team of about 30 contributors from Movieland and beyond. To-

gether they attend and report from Montreal and Toronto's International Film Festivals as well as Montreal's Fantasia Film Festival. They also cover festivals in Cannes, Australia, London and the United States.

"I consider myself lucky," said Da Conceicao. "Not only do I get to work at the best video store in Montreal, but I also get to produce a radio show about something I love."

To listen to Sound on Sight podcasts check out [soundonsight.org](http://soundonsight.org). To rent at Movieland swing by Le Faubourg, 1616 Ste. Catherine St. W.

## Greenesleaves at Mont Royal

• RAY CORKUM

Everyone and his mother is "geeky" these days, but few have the moxy it takes to full-on Live Action Role Play. These kinds of people are Teflon-coated when it comes to the slings and arrows of the hater.

Head down to Parc Mont Royal on a sunny Sunday and wade your way through the crowd of stoners, Hari Krishnas and Haitian beatboxers that populate Mont Royal for tamtams. Once you've ventured into the wooded area, the real spectacle begins.

Shields, swords, armor, chain-

mail and medieval drama! Battle children of all ages! Fighting it out for all to see! They whap themselves into a frenzy with every sort of duct tape contraption imaginable, growling out death knells for king and country.

Those are some slick geeks.

They mean every bit of it too. They are Alzhemar the Ranger and they are here to prove their worth. Blatantly, wonderfully geeky.

Some of these warriors have rep with the crowd. A six-year-old boy named Eddy (who held a red balloon) was able to give me some insight about the dig dogs

out there.

"He's so good that they don't even see him," he said, pointing to a young man wearing a black, ankle-length robe in 32-degree weather.

The man blasted through the crowd brandishing a masamune blade wildly and screaming at the top of his lungs.

"The other guys don't even see him," Eddy said, as the robed warrior swung wildly. "They don't even know what happened."

The swordsman stopped short and bellowed "We shall have all of the medicines!"

Eddy stared out solemnly into the crowd, in awe of the devastation his hero had wrought. Dead bodies were everywhere, some missing limbs.

Some dead bodies were bitchier than others, pouting about the reckless cannonballing of the would-be assassin and demanding they get "another armour" or that he get "out of here."

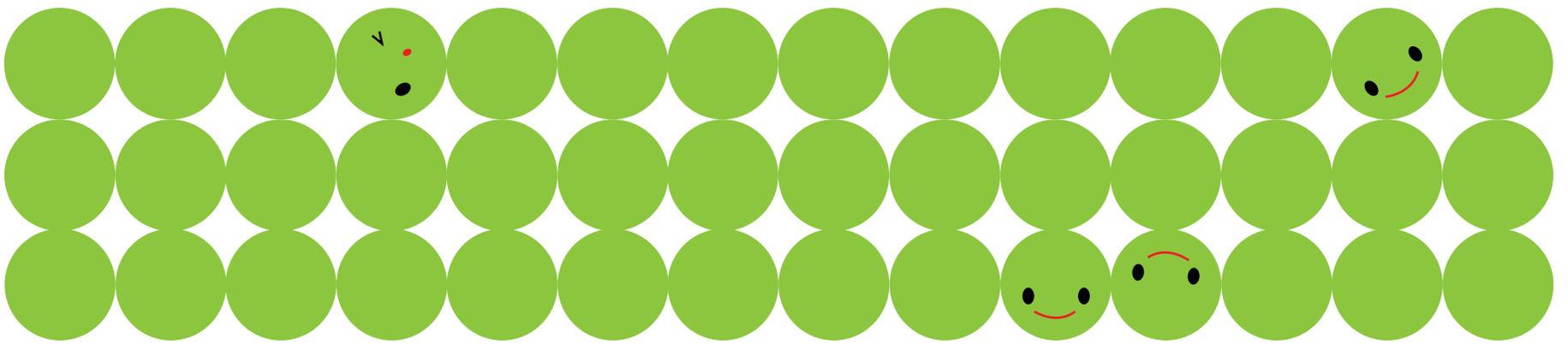
I asked Eddy if it would be cool to talk to his hero, but I was rebuked.

"No! Don't say anything! He's busy!" shouted Eddy, grabbing at my shirt, panicked. He was indeed wreaking havoc. Such flail-

ing and destruction I had never seen.

I asked Eddie why he was on the sidelines and he answered defiantly that he "didn't know how," which made perfect sense I guess. He was staring at a boy just his senior, battleaxe equal to his height, being chased through the melee by a man in leather armour wielding a huge hammer.

It's wacky and it's not ironic, which is refreshing. You can check it out every Sunday on Mont Royal. Pack a few roadies and get ready for the most epic time in a loincloth since Conan punched a horse.



The cool kids are at *The Link*, here's why:

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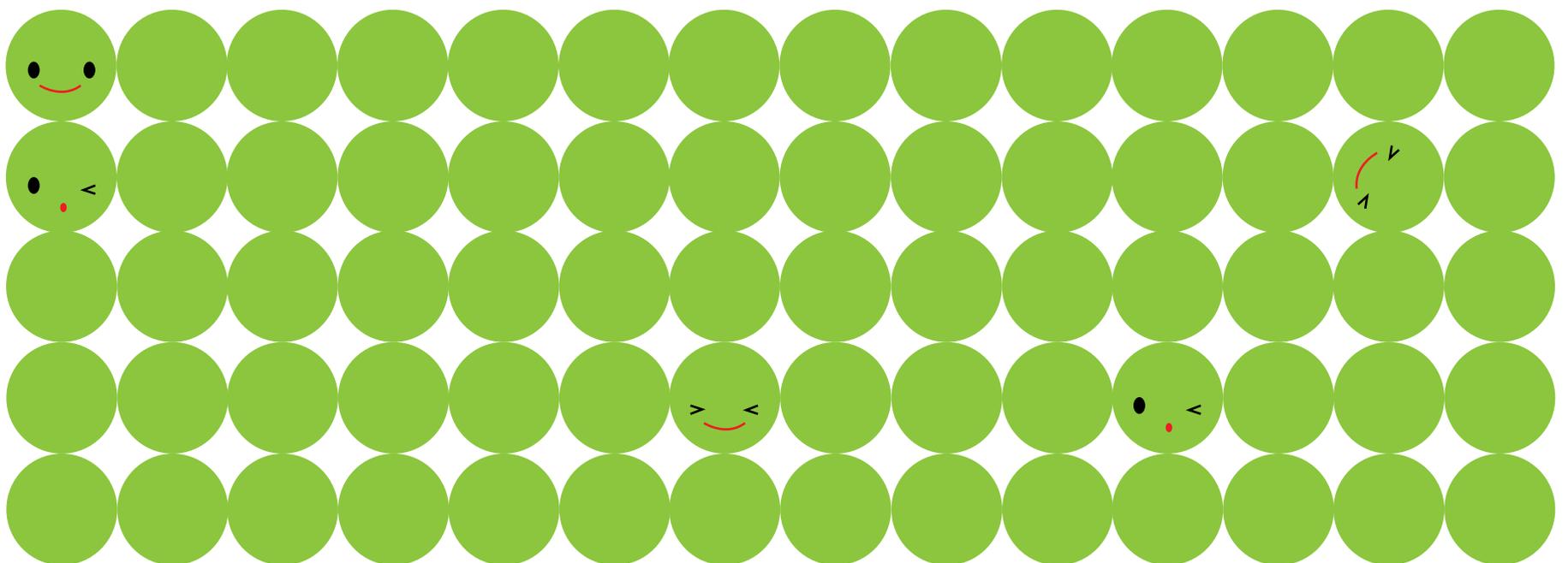
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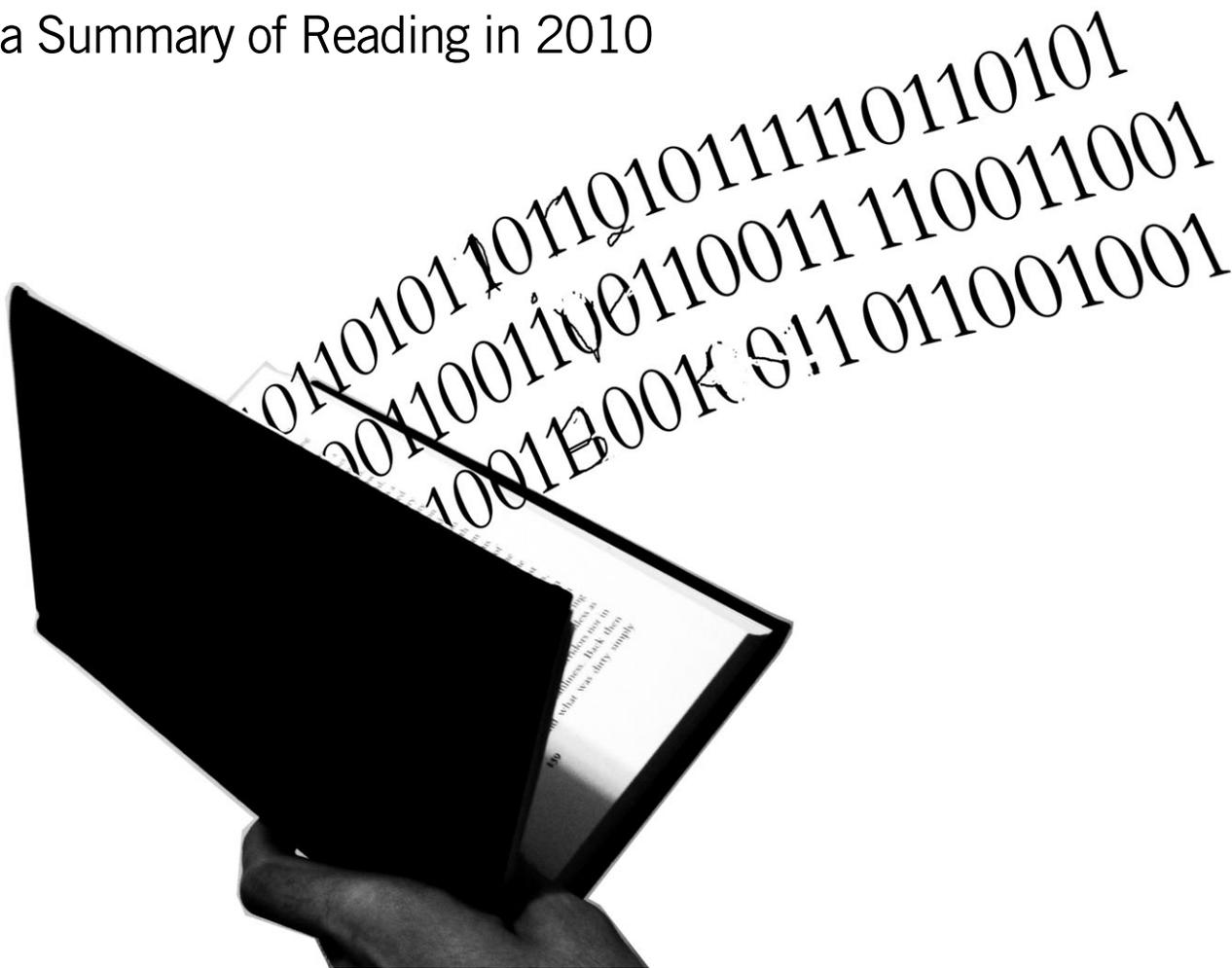


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AND DISCOVER THE CHARM.**



## Books Are Dead. Long Live Books!

Or, a Summary of Reading in 2010



The future of literature is in a state of massive flux. GRAPHIC ALEX MANLEY

• **ALEX MANLEY**

So Bob Dylan said it best: “The times, they are a-changin.”

Now, nothing changes completely. All big change is comprised of and preceded by a series of small, often unnoticeable changes. For situations like these, I like to think of the sea eroding a cliff face. Maybe you have your own mental image to substitute, so by all means, imagine it right now, if you think that will help.

What I’m brass-tacks-talking about is this: literature is in a state of massive flux. We have reached the point where the sea erodes the cliff face so much that a bunch of rocks break off and fall, and the little log cabin perilously placed at the very edge tumbles down with them. We are sitting in that log cabin—and so are all our books.

As we prepare for the fall, perhaps we should have a discussion about the sea below us—a sea whose waters these pages will attempt to navigate both for and with you throughout the coming

school year.

The Internet is supplanting TV. As a means to waste your time, as a means to learn things, as a formative childhood medium, you name it. Even as a means to, well, watch television. We are taking control again. No longer do we watch according to the networks’ schedules. The Internet, like books, re-empowers us, the end users.

We are spending less of our time watching pictures moving and more time reading words. I have yet to see any evidence that suggests this is producing better spellers, or even better writers—but it is something. Thanks to the Internet, the basic intellectual experience of reading text has never been so widespread, so readily available, the content on order so encyclopedic. We are living in amazing times.

Consider that movies have not rendered novels obsolete. The act of interpreting story through film and the consumption of stories as films, has left stories in glue-and-

paper books in the dust. Financially, it’s no contest.

And yet we say, “but the book was better.” The experience of reading a book is still a different animal entirely. You are the director, the book a finely crafted shooting script. Your budget is limited only by the outer reaches of your imagination, and if you like a little of Column B with Column A, graphic novels now constitute an accepted art form which comprises a vast and rich range of mind-expanding written, story-based art.

As for stories with a little something extra, it’s also worth mentioning that—yes it’s happening—e-books are replacing books. We don’t need paper and ink to convey the basic story experience anymore.

In fact, moving past it may end up being the best thing to happen to literature since Johannes van de Gutenberg invented the printing press. Technology dictates what a medium is capable of.

E-books represent new possi-

bilities to a stunning degree, and before long, you may well be reading even *The Link* on a screen (and, now that our website doesn’t suck anymore, it wouldn’t hurt to check it out either).

There are those who are afraid of this shift, and they are many. They don’t like the idea of novels doing things or the experience of text being morphable. They don’t want to know what writers are capable of if their inner visual artist is given a little bit of freedom.

So, let’s not all run around, chickens with our heads cut-off, worrying about the death of books or the death of reading or the death of writing.

We are not wearing virtual reality headgear in our flying cars in 2010. We are reading books, riding on buses. It seems like humanity has agreed that the written word is something worth holding onto. Not the be-all-and-end-all of human communication, information or entertainment—but not dead by a long shot.

## Quick Read



*The Devil You Know*

Jenn Farrell

Anvil Press

126 pp

\$16.00

Now that I’ve read Jenn Farrell’s latest collection of short stories, *The Devil You Know*, I understand the grim feeling of depression.

Though written in irreproachable prose, the collection has very few moments of good humour. Actually, scratch that, there are none. But maybe that’s what you should expect in a book with such a grim title.

Farrell’s opening story, “The Day of the Dead,” involves the typical mother-daughter tension-filled relationship, but the mother is dying of cancer and her last wishes are to be cremated, have her ashes thrown in a box and then in the garbage.

Morbidity aside, Farrell is painstakingly insightful and fearless with the intimate details her characters share. Sometimes these details are so vulgar it makes even the most tolerable person blush, but what’s even more disturbing is how highly relatable they all are.

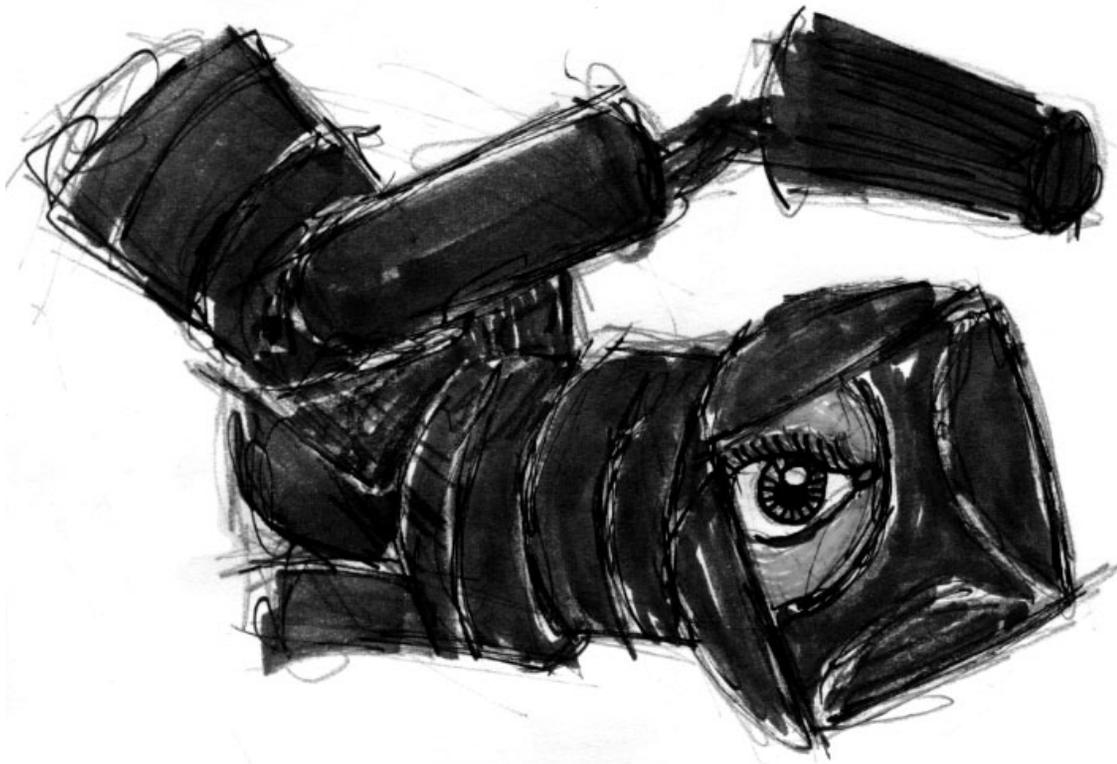
Pick it up if you want to feel down.

3.5/5

—Clay Hemmerich

## Girls Just Want to Get Off

A look at what the porn industry offers women



• JESSICA MORRIS  
(THE FULCRUM)

OTTAWA, ON—Women have always had a very important role to play in pornography—usually with their legs spread. But they are increasingly taking a broader role in the industry, both as creators and as consumers.

Pornography comes in many different forms, from literature to illustrations, from pictures to (most notoriously) videos. *Ladies Home Journal* once did a study that showed that 47 per cent of women use porn to get off.

Yet, it seems that the pornography industry—commonly valued at \$10 billion in the U.S., but more accurately worth between one and four billion—has not quite woken up to these statistics and there remain only a handful of productions made for women.

### Porn for women: a contradiction in terms?

Porn directed at a female audience is a difficult concept. Many women condemn pornography for objectifying and degrading women while others applaud and create it.

What gets even trickier is when both camps call themselves feminists.

“Feminists are not a monolithic group,” explained Christabelle Sethna, a professor of women’s studies at the University of Ottawa.

“Some feminists say pornography, regardless if it’s made specifically for female heterosexual pleasure or lesbian pleasure [...] is exploitative of women. Others say that pornography, if directed at heterosexual males, is bad, but if it is directed [to women] and is more woman-focused it’s o.k.

“It depends on the individual situation,” continued Sethna. “[Some feminists] are very concerned about the individual participants of pornography and don’t distinguish between women being exploited by men or being exploited by other females.”

Historically, women on the side of censorship of pornography have been more vocal and active than the women trying to promote women’s sexual needs in pornography. Behind the scenes, many women are on the other side of the war on pornography—trying to get the industry to include the sexual inter-

ests of women.

Tristan Taormino, author, sex educator and pornographic film director, is active in promoting female interests in the porn industry.

“Some say no porn could ever be feminist,” wrote Taormino. “Lots of us disagree. But that doesn’t mean we agree on what it is: each filmmaker defines her or his work differently. For me, feminist porn is about character, choice and consciousness.”

### History

Culturally speaking, pornography has long been a “man’s thing,” and only as recently as the 80s has the women’s movement started pushing for a larger presence in the pornography industry.

“If we’re speaking about Western society, which is a Judeo-Christian culture, women’s sexuality has always been an object of suspicion and regulation,” said Sethna. “Judeo-Christian society is primarily a patriarchal society, [so] we’re going to get a society where women’s sexuality is seen as something that needs to be controlled for the benefit of society.”

Candida Royalle is considered by many to be the mother of porn for women. Royalle started Femme Productions in 1984, a company that focused on the sexual desires of women in film. The films she creates are from a woman’s point of view with more of an artistic touch and less of a focus on male ejaculation.

In the 80s, Royalle faced resistance to the idea that women could

novels. A new wave of erotic comic books, such as the *Bondage Fairies* series and *Small Favors: Girly Porn Comics*, originally from Japan, are becoming increasingly popular with North American audiences.

Most surprisingly, the explicit material has been almost entirely marketed to women both here and in Japan, and perhaps less surprisingly, women have been very receptive to the idea.

be

stimulated

visually. But

many women have thanked her for opening up women-oriented films as a new genre of porn.

Access to pornography has also been a problem for women. Linda Williams, professor and author of porn studies, explained that well into the 90s, pornography, mostly magazines and film, was only available from pornography stores, which were unofficially men-only spaces.

Although the first sex store for women, Good Vibrations, opened in 1977, the movement didn’t start to pick up until much later. Since then, similar stores have opened up in several cities across Canada.

The store has both a woman-friendly atmosphere and woman-friendly products, like porn for women and numerous sex toys. Stores that are focused on women’s needs and wants have made it easier and more inviting for women to access pornography.

### Erotic literature

Erotic literature is not limited to the traditional Harlequin romance

The

comics place an emphasis on the vagina and the woman gaining sexual pleasure—an empowering change for many women.

### Stimulate me

Mainstream heterosexual films tend to focus almost exclusively on stimulating men, but some things produced to visually stimulate men may do the exact opposite for women. Although certain aspects of pornography, such as emotionless, commitment-free sex (think: pizza delivery boy), can be stimulating for some women, other aspects fall far short of impressing female viewers.

Topping the list of important elements of porn for women is the question of how women are portrayed. The women in mainstream heterosexual porn tend to be artificial, both in performance and appearance—and it goes beyond the oh-so-fake female orgasms.

Three female University of Ottawa students, Emily McKee, Emma DeBono and Ylimay Zamala, shared their likes and dislikes of mainstream porn and reflected on the notion of artificiality. Their views reinforced the idea that the average porn star in mainstream films—unrealistically skinny women with big breasts and long, painted-red nails—isn't sexually appealing to other women.

"It's a really disgusting scene," DeBono said. "[Women performing sexual acts] who weren't wet and weren't swollen [...] it looked painful and it didn't look healthy. [It was evident] that they weren't turned on—it's just an artificial show, that's not real sex."

DeBono finds the focus on male pleasure at the expense of women unappealing.

"[I'm not turned on by] anything that's done where the female is giving and not receiving. I'm not turned on by it [...] I

mainstream pornography, which offer raunchy scenes but tend to have a greater connection between characters and reassurance that the female characters want and are enjoying the sex.

Williams explained that simple things, such as casting and set, alter the video to cater more to women. Not only are more realistic women present, but the type of male also changes. Not surprisingly, porn geared towards women also casts better-looking males.

Creating a nice atmosphere is something Taomino tries to achieve in her films.

"I like to collaborate with performers on how their sexuality is represented, rather than give them a script or formula to follow," she wrote. "I want to capture complex, three-dimensional beings rather than stereotypes, to create an open environment that's safe for everyone—especially women—to take

### Porn for her and her

The gay male porn industry significantly dwarfs that of its female counterpart. Although lesbian porn has become cliché in mainstream porn films, the films are still widely focused on the desires of men and not those of lesbian women.

Mainstream woman-on-woman porn has been criticized by the lesbian community for not offering a realistic view of female homosexual relationships and for encouraging the idea that lesbian sex is taboo. Lesbian sex in heterosexual porn caters to men's tastes.

Porn marketed to lesbians, on the other hand, usually casts more realistic, diverse women of different sizes, looks and personalities. Videos like Dana Dane's *Erocktvision* volumes and Shine Louise Houston's *The Crash Pad* reflect these notions by providing real lesbian porn by real lesbians.

True lesbian porn, like those

produced by Pink and White productions, also tends to embody political statement and emphasizes issues such as diversity, safe sex and varied expressions of sexual identity.

### Downloading the big "O"

The Internet has been a key tool in the distribution of pornography to women. The Internet offers anonymity as much as it offers endless pornographic options to satisfy every fantasy. Many women don't feel like they are being judged and can explore their own sexual desires online.

Indeed, according to a 2006 Family Safe Media review, one-third of adult visitors to pornographic websites are females, amounting to about 9.4 million hits per year.

Although the vast majority of online video pornography is still mainstream and oriented toward

heterosexual men, the Internet has made it easier to access, distribute and even purchase female-geared pornography. The Internet has also led to new erotic literature, from sexual blogging to sites dedicated entirely to erotic stories (like [www.literotica.com](http://www.literotica.com)).

Cybersex (sexual chats with an online partner) is in itself a kind of interactive erotic literature, a fantasyland where women and men can take on different personas and explore different sexual adventures.

### Erotic equality

Pornography can be very useful—as a form of entertainment, as a way to get off, or as a starter in the bedroom. Development and change in the porn industry have caused an irreversible trend towards authenticity and equal access for women—because we want to get off, too.

think it reflects bigger issues," DeBono explained.

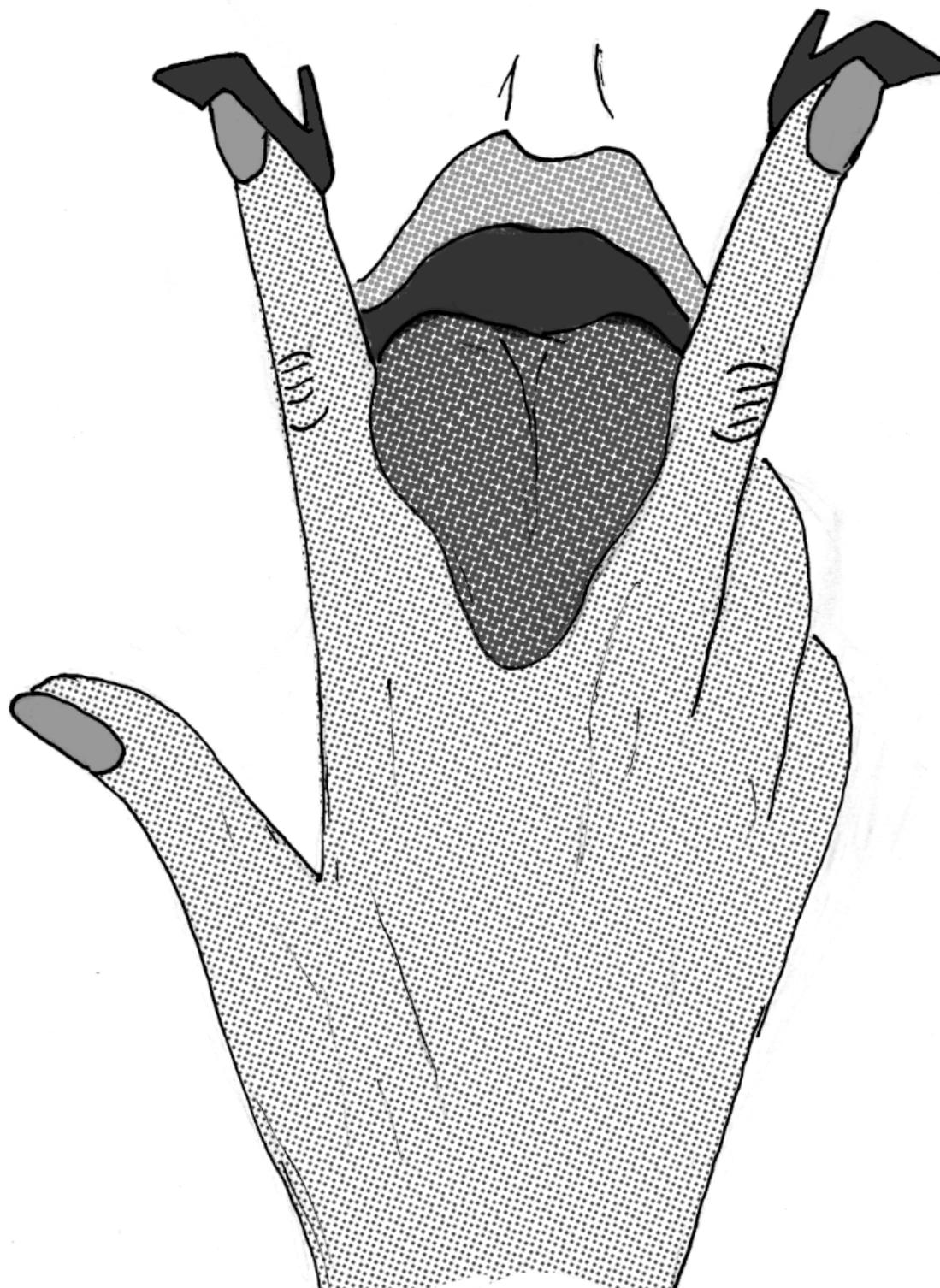
Many big moneymaking shots (the cliché cum shot, say) often aren't what female audiences are looking for either.

"There's an emphasis in mainstream pornography on male ejaculation, and definitely on the penis as a whole," said McKee, explaining that her preference for soft-core porn is due to the real ambience the films create.

"It's more real stuff. No fake breasts or fake orgasms," she said.

Female audiences often prefer foreign or independent films over

charge of their pleasure and be able to express their desires freely. I want to represent sex as positive, fun, healthy and adventurous. I consciously work to create images that contradict—and hopefully challenge—other porn that represents women only as objects and vehicles for male pleasure."



V for vagina: feminist porn takes the focus off the phallus. GRAPHICS ALEX MANLEY

RUGBY



Cara Stuckey (above) evades a swarm of Trent players to run 60 yards and score a try in the women's rugby team's 74-17 victory on Saturday. The Stingers played in two preseason games on the weekend and will welcome the McGill Martlets to Concordia Stadium for the annual Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup tomorrow. PHOTO ROB AMYOT

## The Coach's Take

**"I'm a little disappointed, we just played well enough to win. It's always nice to win the opening game, but I know the Stingers are better than that"**

*-Gerry McGrath, Football head coach*



## No Signs of Rust

### Women's Rugby Picks Up from Where it Left Off

• ALEX DI PIETRO

Even with the departure of several key members of last year's squad, Concordia's women's rugby team opened its preseason on Saturday Sept. 4 at Concordia Stadium without too much difficulty.

"I thought the effort by the girls who had come back, who were mostly the girls you saw in the first half, was fantastic," said head coach Graeme McGravie on Saturday's 74-17 win over Trent University.

"In the second half, we saw what the learning curve was going to be for some of the new people who have come in."

After taking a huge lead into halftime during the game against Trent, McGravie decided to experiment by replacing his entire backline

with some of his less experienced players.

"The ultimate goal is to win league games, not to blow teams out during exhibitions," he said. "We wanted to see what some of the new people could do."

Rookies will occupy about half of the spots on the 2010 roster. Notable additions include back-rower Cara Stuckey and fullback Jenna Giuliani, who both played for the Dawson Blues and Ormstown Saracens, as well as scrum half Jessie Lapointe.

"Those three for sure are probably the ones who stood out the most as far as rookies go," McGravie said of Saturday's performance.

*continued on rugby, pg. 19*

## Scoreboard



### FOOTBALL

**W 17-14 v Bishop's** *saturday*

### MEN'S SOCCER

**L 3-2 v Champlain** *friday*

### WOMEN'S RUGBY

**W 74-17 v Trent** *saturday*

**W 24-10 v Western** *sunday*

### MEN'S RUGBY

**L 10-8 v U de M** *thursday*

**Vesper Martini** Three measures of Gordon's, one of vodka, half a measure of Kina Lillet. Shake it very well until it's ice-cold

, then add a large thin slice of lemon peel. **Sidcar** 1 1/2 oz cognac, 3/4 oz triple sec, 3/4 oz fresh lemon juice 1 orange slice Instructions Put all ingredients and squeeze lemon in mix



# DRINK WITH THE LINK



September 17th @ Burritoville 2055 Rue Bishop St. 7-11 p.m.

ts 2 1/2 oz vodka, 1 1/2 oz dry vermouth, 3 Green Olives. Rinse martini glass in dry vermouth and pour out. Shake vodka with ice until chilled. Pour into martini glass, add olives.

ing glass, shake briskly. Select sugar-rimmed snifter. Strain into glass and garnish with orange slice. Classic Martini Ingredient

# Holding Off

## Timely Interception Enough for Stingers to Take Home First Win

• NICHOLAS DUHAMEL,  
THE CAMPUS

LENOXVILLE, QC—In their first night of football under the lights, the Concordia Stingers had to rely on Max Caron's interception return in the third quarter to hang on for a 17-14 win over the Bishop's Gaiters Saturday night.

The Gaiters were plagued with holding and pass interference penalties all game long and had trouble crossing the first-down marker without having the play called back.

The Stingers were unable to put drives together and get the ball down the field. That allowed the Gaiters to partially take advantage of the opportunities given to them with Bishop's kicker Josh Maveety notching a single and a field

goal.

Concordia scored a single of its own, which was followed shortly by Maveety's second field goal early in the second quarter.

The Stingers dominated the last six minutes of the second quarter, as they forced Bishop's to concede a safety after a flurry of penalties.

They followed it up with a touchdown late, as quarterback Robert Mackay found Liam Mahoney for a 20-yard touchdown to cap a 66-yard drive and give the Stingers a 10-7 lead.

The game deciding play took place in the third quarter after Concordia punter Dumitru Ionita coffin-kicked the ball deep inside Gaiter territory.

On first down, quarterback Jesse Andrews saw his pass

being swatted out of the air, bobbled, then caught in the end zone by Concordia linebacker Max Caron, giving the Stingers a 17-7 lead.

That play later earned Caron Quebec University Football League defensive player of the week honours.

Following the interception, Andrews came back with a vengeance and led his team down the field, throwing for 63 yards and a touchdown. Alexander Fox was on the receiving end of the touchdown pass, bringing his team within three points of the tie.

The beginning of the fourth quarter looked promising for the Gaiters as Kyle Exumé blocked a punt deep inside the Concordia zone, giving the Gaiters an opportunity to take

the lead.

Concordia's defence stood up to the challenge and stuffed the Gaiter offence right on the two-yard line.

As a last ditch effort to tie the game, coach Leroy Blugh sent out Maveety to attempt a 42-yard field goal, only to see the ball fly wide left.

Besides Andrews' interception in the end zone and the heaps of penalties taken—153 yards worth, Bishop's was statistically better than the Stingers.

Besides the Mahoney touchdown in the second quarter, Concordia's offence never really showed up to compete, accumulating only 239 yards of total offence compared to the Gaiters' 289.

Mackay threw 18 comple-

tions on 43 attempts, with one touchdown and 20 rushing yards. Andrews was 21 for 35 with one touchdown, two interceptions and 32 rushing yards.

Both defences played quite well. Concordia forced two interceptions—one for a touchdown—and stuffed the Gaiters on the goal line.

However, the Bishop's defence only allowed 10 points and defensive end Mathieu Boulay had another great game as he posted one sack and five tackles.

The Stingers will play host to the Université de Montreal Carabins in their home opener this Saturday at Loyola Campus, with kickoff slated for 1 p.m. At the same time, the Gaiters will travel to Percival Molson Stadium also on Saturday to face the McGill Redmen.

CONTINUED FROM RUGBY, PG.17



The Stingers showed they could do more than just score this weekend. PHOTO ROB AMYOT



Some of the players who will not be back are centre Laura Belvedere, no. 8 Vanessa Grillo and scrum half Robin Hunter.

"Laura Belvedere was a huge loss," said McGravie. "She's a brick out there and was a massive contributor to our team."

While the Stingers lost a veteran in Hunter, they will have to

do without Grillo, who has decided to put her university career on hold and attend John Abbott College to become an ambulance technician.

The Stingers have made it to nationals twice out of the last three years, with their last appearance ending in a loss to the Guelph Gryphons in the bronze-medal

game.

"We're focusing on finishing as high as we can to try and host a playoff, then it's about getting to Peterborough," said McGravie. "And from what I've seen at camp so far, I'm very optimistic that we'll get back there."

The Stingers improved their preseason record to 2-0 on Sunday

as they beat the University of Western Ontario 24-10.

Concordia will host the sixth annual Kelly-Anne Drummond Cup on Sept. 8 at 8:30 p.m. against McGill. The game is meant to commemorate Drummond—a former member of the women's rugby team who was murdered in 2004, and raise funds for Women

Aware—a group based in Montreal whose goal is to assist women who have experienced violence. Those looking to make a donation can do so at the game in the form of cash.

New to this year's event is a Stingers alumni rugby sevens game against the West-Island based Montreal Barbarians, which will be played during halftime.

## Get What You're Paying For

### A Comprehensive List of Your Fee-Levy Services

• CLAY HEMMERICH

You know that one line on your tuition bill that says Student Association and Activity Fee? Well, that one line represents 13 groups on campus that provide services that many

undergrads go through university never knowing they can use.

Seeing as students pay for the services, they should be able to take advantage of them.

However, since the information about them

is next to impossible to find, here's the low-down on what you're funding, laid out so you have the option to make your own choice.

The first number, the fee levy, is how much you pay per credit. Multiply the fee-levy

with your total credit-count this semester—the average student takes twelve credits. Multiply that by 30,000, the undergrad population at Concordia, and you'll see how much these organizations get per semester.



**The Link**

\$0.19 /credit x 12 = \$2.28 x 30,000 = \$68,400/semester  
Your newspaper brought to you every week, by yours truly.



**Cinema Politica**

\$0.07/credit x 12 = \$0.84 x 30,000 = \$2,100/semester  
Montreal's non-profit political cinema that gets screened all over the world. Pick up a brochure of viewing times at the entrance of the Hall building. Pay what you can, or if you're strapped for cash, you're welcome to watch for free.



**People's Potato**

\$0.37/credit x 12 = \$4.44 x 30,000 = \$133,200/semester  
The Potato brings you culinary kindness every weekday. They offer free vegan-friendly food from 11:30 a.m to 2:00 p.m. on the 7th floor of the Hall building.



**Concordia Francaise**

\$0.06/credit x 12 = \$0.72 x 30,000 = \$21,600/semester  
These funds help print *L'Organe*, the only francophone magazine at Concordia.



**Le Frigo Vert**

\$0.25/credit x 12 = \$3.00 x 30,000 = \$90,000/semester  
Your non-corporate, neighbourhood organic grocery store that also provides information and services about equal-rights activism and vegan nutrition.



**2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy**

\$0.29/credit x 12 = \$3.48 x 30,000 = \$104,400/semester  
The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy holds events such as film festivals and discussions in an effort to break down gender barriers.



**Art Matters**

\$0.08/credit x 12 credits = \$0.96 x 30,000 = \$28,800/semester  
\$0.30 for fine arts students  
Pitch in eight cents per credit to throw a badass art festival for emerging artists in Concordia. It's happening on March 11, 2011.



**CJLO Radio**

\$0.25/credit x 12 = \$3.00 x 30,000 = \$90,000/semester  
Tune your radios to 1690 AM and check out Concordia's radio station.

**Broadcast Media Fund**

\$0.09/credit x 12 = \$1.08 x 30,000 = \$32,400/semester  
The administrative side of CJLO Radio and CUTV.



**The Concordian**

\$0.19/credit x 12 = \$2.28 x 30,000 = \$68,400/semester  
The other guys.



**Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec**

\$2.50/semester x 30,000 = \$75,000/semester  
\$2.50 buys you ... I'm not really sure. Another lobby group?



**Sustainable Action Fund**

\$0.25/credit x 12 = \$3.00 x 30,000 = \$90,000/semester  
Three bucks a semester funds all of the "greening" going on in Concordia. Check out the \$12,500 green wall project at the Reggie's terrace.



**The Quebec Public Interest Research Group**

\$0.30/credit x 12 = \$3.60 x 30,000 = \$108,000/semester  
The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia is all about stirring shit up. They offer resources to support grassroots activism for diverse social and environmental issues.



**Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program**

\$0.35/credit x 12 = \$4.20 x 30,000 = \$126,000/semester  
The Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program: the name pretty much explains everything. Sign up and get shipped to far off, third-world countries and do some humanitarian work. Hang out at the newly acquired volunteer center in Uganda.

Now, if you think any of this stuff does not apply to you, you can always OPT OUT of these charges and get your money back. Just bring your tuition bill to any of their offices, fill out a form and get reimbursed.\* You can opt out of Concordia Student Union health care fees online.

\*Your experience and ease of opt out may vary. Check opt out periods for each group.



GRAPHIC DARNYA RUKHLYADEVA

## Who Really Calls the Shots in our Student Government?

• JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

There are two Concordia Student Unions: one is elected and the other is not.

The elected CSU, run by presidents and VPs is answerable to students and operates in the light of press and popular scrutiny.

Away from the glass doors of the CSU's seventh floor offices, in bars and by text message, lies another student union running in parallel. Composed of former presidents, staff members, politicians from faculty associations and influential students, this hidden structure is responsible for some of the policies adopted by the student union and the people who run it.

These are the student lifers of Concordia politics, people whose names and faces reappear long after they received, or should have received, their diplomas. In Ottawa or Quebec City politics, they would be called lobbyists.

Brent Farrington, Mohamed Shuriye, Leah Del Vechio and Amine Dabchy. Over the past four years, those names and faces—along with many others—have come to the forefront as election time has approached.

The case of Brent Farrington marks the most unmistakable moment when the lobbyists took over.

After holding the CSU presidency in 2004, during the second year of the Unity/Evolution slate's half decade in power, Farrington returned in 2009 to preside over its end.

With then-President Keyana Kashfi facing an unruly Council and allegations of corruption every other week, Farrington was parachuted in to help.

Sitting as the deputy chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, a national lobby group that Concordia has since attempted to quit, Farrington was

appointed chair of the Council.

As an elder in the Unity/Evolution establishment, Farrington was put in one of the most powerful positions in the CSU, a pulpit from which he steered debate on Council and squashed dissent.

Another lobbyist waiting in the wings orchestrated the destruction of the Unity slate and Farrington's ejection from Concordia: Mohamed Shuriye.

Shuriye, who served as CSU president the year after Farrington and as part of the same dynasty, had had a falling out with Unity/Evolution. Acting as the "campaign coordinator" for the Vision slate of 2009, Shuriye helped bring Amine Dabchy to power.

The 2009 election, one of the most controversial in recent CSU history, saw the spending of vast amounts of unaccounted money from unknown sources. From ads

mounted on trucks to a well-organized campaign to discredit the final Unity/Evolution offering, the 2009 election marked the end of a six-year dynasty with a bang.

It's no surprise that the election saw two networks of CSU lobbyists—the Farrington and Shuriye-affiliated groups—engage in an election that brought one lineage to an end.

During this past election, then Arts and Science Federation of Associations' President Leah Del Vechio stood up and became "campaign coordinator" for Vision's offspring: Fusion.

Using a network of volunteers built up during the 2009 election and the anti-CFS campaign that was waged all year, Del Vechio helped create a new dynasty at Concordia: Vision/Fusion.

No longer at Concordia, Del Vechio has left a power vacuum at the CSU that was made worse with the

resignation of CSU President Prince Ralph Osei in August.

Former president Amine Dabchy, who was present at the August Council meeting and spoke first to defend the sitting CSU administration during a debate over a \$45,000 loan, is now the heir apparent to the leadership of the unelected branch of the CSU.

As a student representative on the Board of Governors, the university's highest body, Dabchy is in a powerful position to influence policy and act as a shoulder for the current CSU executive to rest on.

Despite his experience, Dabchy's position is not assured and for the first time in many years, this CSU executive could be the first to speak fully for itself—but only if it makes the hard choice to do so.

Either way, look to see who is appointed "campaign coordinator" next March.

## Nah'msayin?

### The Spoils of Translation

I love how French translations of American movie titles always give away a bit too much of the plot. The French title for *Home Alone* literally translates to *Mom I Missed the Airplane!* So if you didn't see the trailer and you're bilingual, you can deduce stuff.

Like, "alright the kid is home alone because he missed the airplane."

Also, *Jaws* in French is *The Teeth of the Sea*.

"Ok, ok so it's definitely happening in water and the sea has teeth, soooooo shark?"

*Die Hard* in French is *Crystal Trap*. I really have no idea what a crystal trap is, unless they're talking about meth. Oh no, not crystal meth! Don't do it, Bruce.

—Christopher Curtis,  
News Editor



GRAPHIC VIVIEN LEUNG

Notice something that just doesn't make sense? Got an axe to grind? Send in a rant to Nah'msayin? 300 words max. [opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:opinions@thelinknewspaper.ca)



## Letters @thelinknewspaper.ca

**Water bottle ban makes sense**

The reason that bottled water is singled out amongst all beverages sold on campus is simple: because it is the only drink that is freely available right next to where you are buying it.

The truth is that we here in Canada benefit from having some of the highest quality water on Earth, freely available to us practically everywhere. A process designed to bottle water, which is too often of even lesser quality than what you get out of your tap, and then to transport it worldwide and resell it to us is nearly criminal in its wastefulness and an affront to the basic democratic right to potable water we rejoice in here.

We should be pressuring the university administration to not only ban bottled water, but more importantly to construct accessible water fountains all over campus to ensure all students ubiquitous access to water at all times, while also producing the least waste possible.

I agree with a principled stand against excessive packaging of all kinds, including the other drinks sold on campus. However, until orange juice and Coca-Cola are coming free out of the walls around me, I just don't think there is as strong an argument for it.

Every step of the process surrounding the life cycle of bottled water on our campus is not only a wasteful use of both hydrocarbons and manpower, but also completely unnecessary.

—Gene Morrow,  
Independent Student

**Response to 'assigned and undemocratic'**

"Representing Concordia students is a privilege and a responsibility."

Allow me to say that I hear you loud and clear. It is certainly not an easy task to speak for Concordia students, manage the finances, and balance the whole with studies. I personally thank you for your message, from which we understand that you take student representation at heart.

With regards to your article, allow me

to reiterate the message you passed on in last week's newspaper with minor rectifications: If any previous members of our executive resigned thus far, it was due to reasons that affected them personally. What we did was to verify the by-laws that have been set in place to ensure a reasonable procedure in finding a replacement.

Bylaw 7.2.5 clearly mentions the directives a CSU president/executive must follow in a similar situation. The CSU abided by these rules, and for the vacancy created we will also follow the rules.

Section 11.4 that you refer to is applicable to individual members of the Council of Representatives who had the choice to run independently or slated.

In contrast, the two executive choices on the ballot ran as teams. Both slates had candidates, policies and promises. Hence, our bylaws reflect the latter statements rationally.

With respect to your views on how our VP Finance got the position, the fact of the matter still remains that during the selection process, Zhuo Ling stood out as the candidate who knew best about the goals and objectives of the CSU and was the most qualified to fill in the shoes of a finance VP.

The bylaws don't state the necessity to have any political precedent for the position, yet Ling ran and was voted in—by students—for John Molson School of Business Senate during the last elections. Some may criticize the circumstances surrounding the elections, but he didn't run unopposed; No and Abstain were part of that ballot as well.

To every single one of us here at the CSU, this is our vocation, a service we commit to give to students. We were the slate that was voted in democratically. Our main goal is to serve students. No one here avoided the democratic process.

If you have any other concerns and further questions, I always invite you to our offices; the door is wide open to any student who wishes to be heard.

—Heather Lucas,  
CSU President

**A solution to tuition conflict**

Diego Pelaez Gaetz ("Time to Grow Up", Vol.31, Iss.2, Aug. 24) is full of questions and impatient for answers. He doesn't agree that raising tuition is the answer to Concordia's financial problems, but he himself offers no alternative, leaving it to people like Mr. Osei and his successor Ms. Lucas.

But, as he says, the CSU, despite their rhetoric, has not offered such an alternative, and their actions seem to favour increasing costs. Not a year has gone by that the CSU has not sought to raise its own fee, or some other fee, and at the last CSU Council meeting they even passed a motion (authored by the University) that retroactively approved an illegal fee hike and allowed the University to keep the proceeds. However, there have been changes recently, so we will soon see what the CSU has to offer.

But there are others who do have alternatives.

Virtually every government everywhere favours free access to education (on paper). Even the Constitution of President Lucas' home state of Texas has it right. It states, "A general diffusion of knowledge being essential to the preservation of the liberties and rights of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature of the State to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools."

Can't beat that as a call for free education. Could this be the kind of American model Dr. Woodworth has in mind? Probably not.

Education seems to be of crucial importance only until you start to learn anything truly useful, stuff that can really help you preserve your liberties and rights. After that, education seems to lose all social value in the eyes of legislatures.

If the Quebec government decided that it would cost parents \$5,000 - \$6,000 per year to send a child to kindergarten, suburbanites would march on the National Assembly with tiki torches and weed whackers. But that same child apparently has no right to schooling beyond reading

and writing, and maybe a little finger-painting and a trip to a petting zoo.

I won't condense a big answer into a small space (400 words isn't much), but instead point out the Free Education Montreal web site. It has plenty of material about education and some of the better alternatives that Mr. Pelaez Gaetz is looking for:

<http://freededucationmontreal.org>.

—Robert Sonin,  
M.A. Philosophy

**Response to 'PSA shaken by resignations'**

In its last issue, *The Link* ran the article, "Pakistani Student Association shaken by resignations," (Vol.31, Iss.2, Aug. 31) in which two former VPs accused the president of the PSA, Yassir Aziz, of religious discrimination. They assert that a speaker's religion was the reason an event was abruptly cancelled, an allegation the president denies.

The formal reason the CSU was given was that the event was cancelled due to a perceived security risk. In situations like these, it is always difficult to determine the facts of the story. The CSU has no reason to believe that any statements made about Aziz regarding this event are true since he has been transparent in his communications with us from the beginning.

However, there were a number of errors made in the planning for this event, which all clubs should be made aware of as they plan their own. If the legitimate reason for canceling this event was concern that safety and security could not be assured, there is a serious problem. This kind of perceived threat cannot be tolerated. Any club finding itself in this position should immediately alert the CSU as well as Campus Security.

Another important point that needs to be stressed is that no form of discrimination will be tolerated by any of the clubs or their events. The CSU does not interfere with the planning of club events and believes that this decision is completely up to the executives who have the responsibility to represent their membership's in-

terests and diversity. All CSU clubs are void of any discriminatory policies by race, gender, age or religion and the CSU is actively involved in ensuring that all of its events on campus reflect this open policy.

Anyone who suspects discrimination of any kind is encouraged to take action by using channels such as the CSU Judicial Board or mediation by the VP Clubs or Clubs Director to resolve similar internal issues.

—Heather Lucas,  
CSU President

**Sisterly Love for Lucas**

Firstly I would like to speak in support of the newly appointed President Heather Lucas. I have worked closely with her in our sorority Delta Phi Epsilon, and through knowing and seeing her work ethic I have no doubt that she will take the CSU to great heights.

Heather is the type of person to make the best of any given situation and her make-it-happen attitude will definitely be an asset in her presidential position. I have nothing but confidence in her leadership. She is open, approachable and down to earth. If you don't believe me, I encourage you to go meet her!

I am also writing in support of the current executive as a whole. They may have experienced some bumps in the road with two execs resigning for personal reasons, but such is life. The executives did the best they could with their given resources and, in my opinion, filled the empty positions effectively.

I have full faith in this team and I already know that this year will be amazing due to their never-ending hard work. With this said, I trust what the executives have done so far and I know that they will uphold the student's best interest in whatever decisions they make.

Have that faith in them and I promise you that you won't be disappointed.

—Alison Ravine  
Fine Arts Councillor

**DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU READ?  
SEND US A LETTER.**

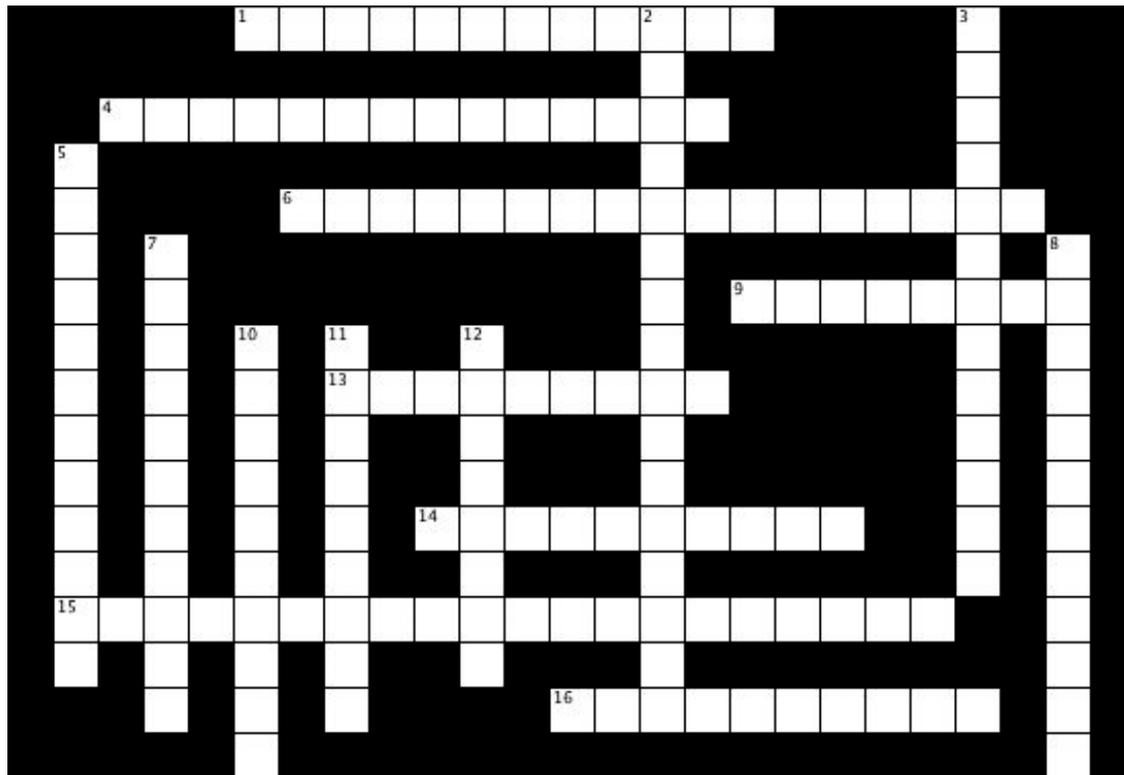
send your letters and opinions to  
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**The Link's letters and opinions policy:** The deadline for letters is 4 p.m. on Friday before the issue prints. *The Link* reserves the right to verify your identity via telephone or email. We reserve the right to refuse letters that are libellous, sexist, homophobic, racist or xenophobic. The limit is 400 words. If your letter is longer, it won't appear in the paper. Please include your full name, weekend phone number, student ID number and program of study. The comments in the letters and opinions section do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board.

# crswrdpzzlol

“ATHLETES HAVE OTHER LIVES TOO” EDITION • R. BRIAN “NO LIFE” HASTIE



**Across**

- 1. Prime Time's career may have petered out after he was traded from the Falcons, but his name still appears in neon as an NFL network commentator. Good on you, sir.
- 4. One word: Kazaam. You're welcome for bringing that nightmare of a movie back to life.
- 6. Former NBA star towered over his famous on-screen partner in 1980's *Game Of Death*, but shone in cult classic *Airplane!* which came out the same year.
- 9. Former pro skateboarder is now both a) A Scientologist and b) a Kevin Smith movie alumni with a somewhat successful, though recently-cancelled, sitcom.
- 13. Taken from his Wikipedia page, the athlete in question "is a retired American football player, football broadcaster, spokesman, actor, and convicted felon." He also was good buddies with Leslie Nielsen...
- 14. First this QB quits after a stellar run in 2007 and then decides to retire, only to come back and make a mockery out of his once-proud legacy. How dare the Vikings sign such a wash out? (Editor's note: Brian was hit with lightning shortly after having the gall to be-

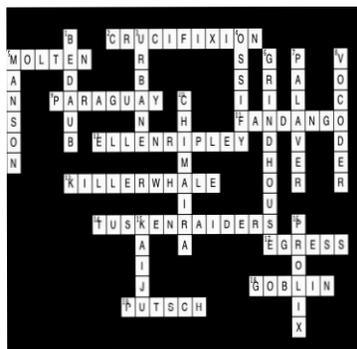
- smirch the reputation of this legend.)
- 15. The Terminator himself once pumped iron for titles before hitting the political arena with his giant-sized fists.
- 16. His in-ring antics are nothing compared to his top acting chops, landing the career-defining lead character role in John Carpenter's *They Live*, where he plays a drifter with a heart of gold.

**Down**

- 2. Even though he's past 50, this former boxing champ believes he can once again rise to the top of the podium and manage to not get his ear bitten off this time around. Only time will tell if he succeeds.
- 3. The star of *Space Jam*. Point finale. All you ever need to know about this failed baseball star... And perhaps the greatest basketball player of all-time. Maybe I forgot to mention that part.
- 5. After hitting the hardcourt for Detroit, San Antonio and Chicago, this colourfully-maned forward attempted to cross over in such terrible movies as *Simon Sez* and *Double Team*.
- 7. From UK football star to Hollywood mainstay, this heavy has starred in most of British

- director Guy Ritchie's movies.
- 8. For a man who used to prance around the ring in a hunter's outfit, this current state governor is doing pretty well for himself.
- 10. Went from protecting porn stars (often appearing on-camera) to backyard fights to leading a mediocre career in MMA.
- 11. 1987 no. 1 NFL draft pick who went on to somehow become both a Pro Bowler and an MLB all star pick. This rare two-timing champ excels at more than one sport.
- 12. From Cleveland Brown running-back/fullback to appearances in films like *The Dirty Dozen* and *Three The Hard Way*, this athlete could be considered one of the better actors on this list.

**issue 03 solutionz**



**THE LINK**  
CONCORDIA'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## editorial

### Project Noise is Killing the Music Scene

There was a lot of buzz this summer about noise pollution in Montreal, particularly in the Plateau-Mont Royal borough.

Over the past three months, there were 3,000 noise complaints in the area. Notably, reputable music festivals like the Osheaga music festival and a Pop Montreal showcase held at Parc des Ameriques experienced the brunt of new efforts by the city of Montreal to address the issue of noise pollution.

Under pressure from the city, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal initiated Project Noise to address the issue and began handing out fines of up to \$12,000 to anyone who was too loud.

With Project Noise, another addition was made to the city's bylaws to clean up, green up and make Montreal a more desirable place to live.

Citizens of all kinds, including those in city council and tourism, boast about Montreal's vibrant music scene. However, that scene depends on summer music festivals that, more often than not, feature Montreal musicians of all stripes. So why is it that the places from which this music emerges are being punished?

Established Montreal DJ Ghislain Poirier threatened to leave the city because of the steep fines. He said in his blog that the municipal government is sucking the life out of Montreal's music scene and that there is no way for him to grow as a musician if he isn't allowed to play his music.

Project Noise seems to be a bit of a contradiction.

Construction deprives those who live in the Plateau of sleep and peace six days a week, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Surely, *The Link* is not arguing against construction in Montreal, a city falling apart, but maybe Project Noise should aim its efforts at true noise pollution, rather than cracking down on new musicians.

This isn't the city's first crackdown on local art.

Recently, the city hounded venues and artists for putting up poster-art to broadcast shows. Club Lambi lamented to francophone newspaper *La Presse* that it might soon face fines for noise pollution and illegal advertising.

Small music venues will inevitably suffer most from these large fines.

This will hurt in areas like the Mile End and Griffintown that have seen the loss of two eminent cultural spaces due to noise complaint over the past year. Lab Synthèse closed down in November of last year. More recently, Montreal saw the loss of Friendship Cove over the summer. Those places were part of what made Montreal's music scene stand out amongst the crowd.

Surely there is great music in every city in Canada, it's just that Montreal tends to be a place aspiring musicians move to, since the city caters to and embraces budding talent.

The city's noise laws impacted Concordia when the student union was told over the summer that international star K'naan would need to perform under 80 decibels. The orientation headliner was moved to Loyola Campus after the city would not relent and the concert could not find a proper venue anywhere downtown.

Since music is necessary for Montreal's citizens and tourist industry, why aren't hours dedicated to playing loud music? Why is there no crackdown on festivals with corporate sponsorship, like the Montreal Jazz Festival or the NASCAR outdoor party on Crescent Street? Try talking on the phone two blocks away from those festivals. It's impossible.

Information about Project Noise is basically hidden from the public. Stephane Belanger, the man behind Project Noise, mentioned to *La Presse* that there aren't any set stipulations for how loud a crowd could be. Therefore, the fines are totally subjective and are at the whim of the police officer writing the ticket.

Living in Montreal, or any urban centre for that matter, comes with a certain lifestyle, especially if you are living in a city that has the biggest undergraduate population in Canada. While *The Link* believes in peace and quiet, we suggest Project Noise makes itself heard so noisemakers know what they're up against.

Project Noise's intentions are questionable and will ultimately, if implemented, be destructive to Montreal's identity and its reputation.

—Ashley Opheim & Clay Hemmerich,  
Fringe Arts Editor & Opinions Editor